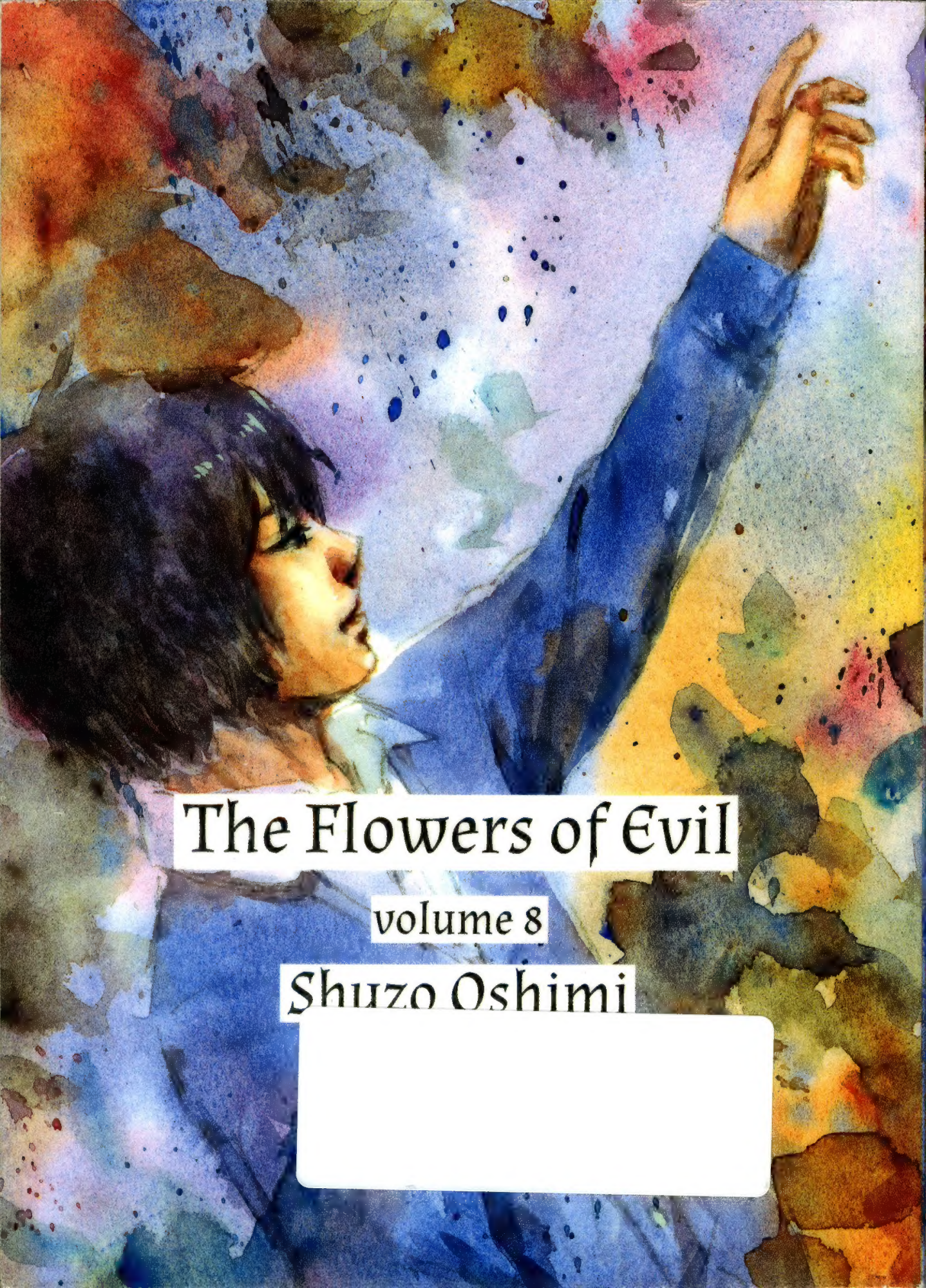

The Flowers of Evil

volume 8

Shuzo Oshimi

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Printed in Canada

"This book may be entirely bazonkers,
but I am deeply invested and must see it through.
For now [vols. 1-5], it gets my highest recommendation despite
my discomfort with some of its expressions and my hopefully
groundless fear that Oshimi may not actually end up creating
something more than a reveling in sadism, masochism,
and interpersonal anarchy. 3 Stars = Good"

—GOOD OK BAD

The Flowers of Evil

volume 8

Shuzo Oshimi

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KASUGA, MY BAD ...

UHH,

WHOOOO

MY BOY-FRIEND'S HERE.

WHA
...

...

WHY
?

IIº
A
KA

WHAT
?

GOD,
THEY'RE
SUCH
GOSSIPS
...

SHOKO
OR
SOMEONE
MUST'VE
TOLD
HIM.

WE MET
THEM IN THE
COURTYARD,
REMEMBER
?

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

UH... WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

WHAT SHOULD I....

WHA ...

WHAT?!

OH ...

YOU JUST WAIT HERE, KASUGA, OKAY ?

I'M GONNA GO DOWN.

UH... UH...

KACHOK

OH ...

TUP

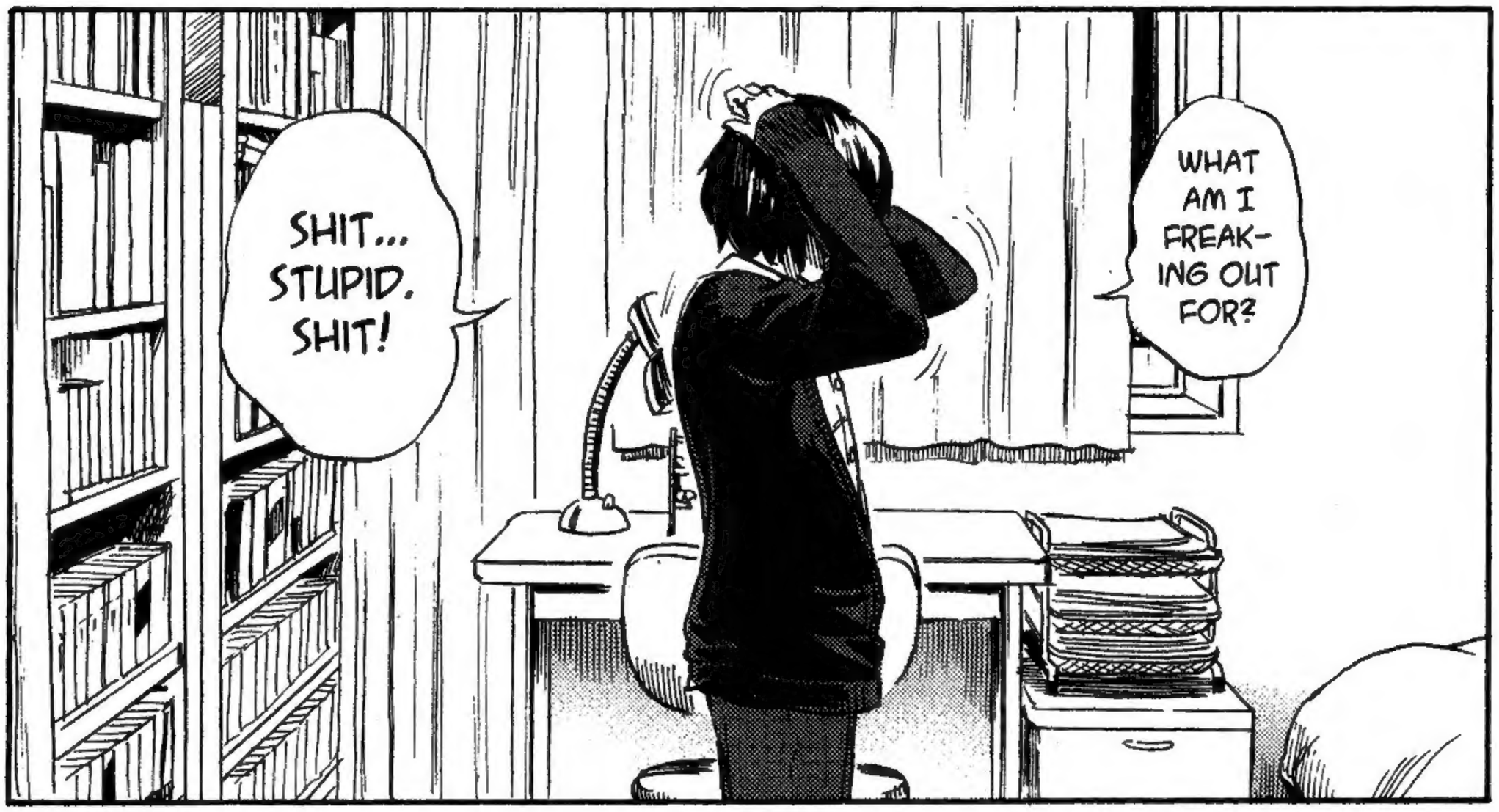
TUP

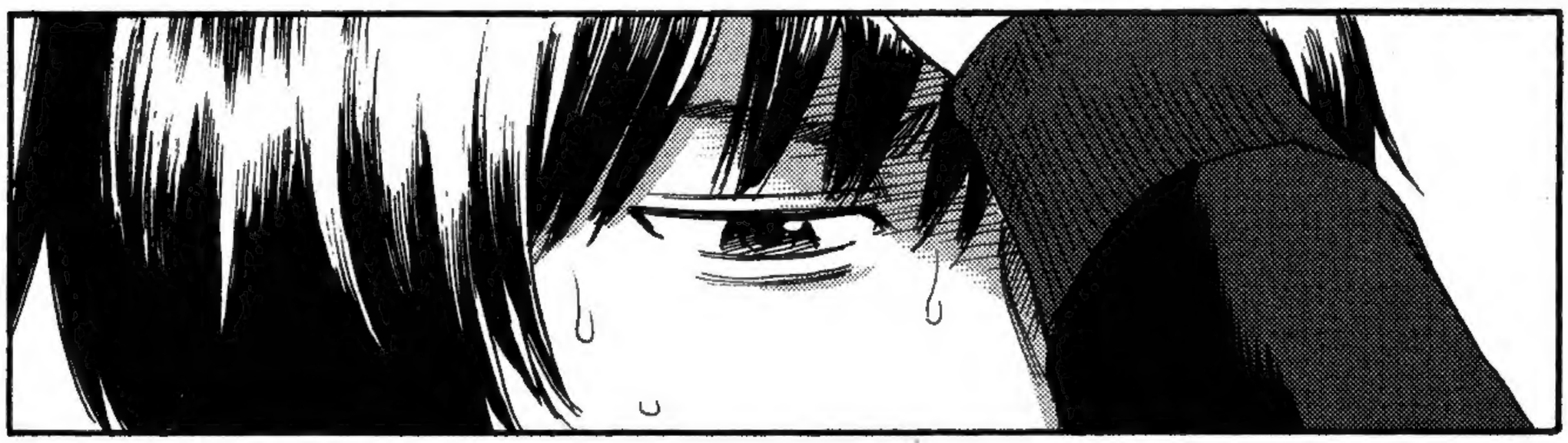
CHUK

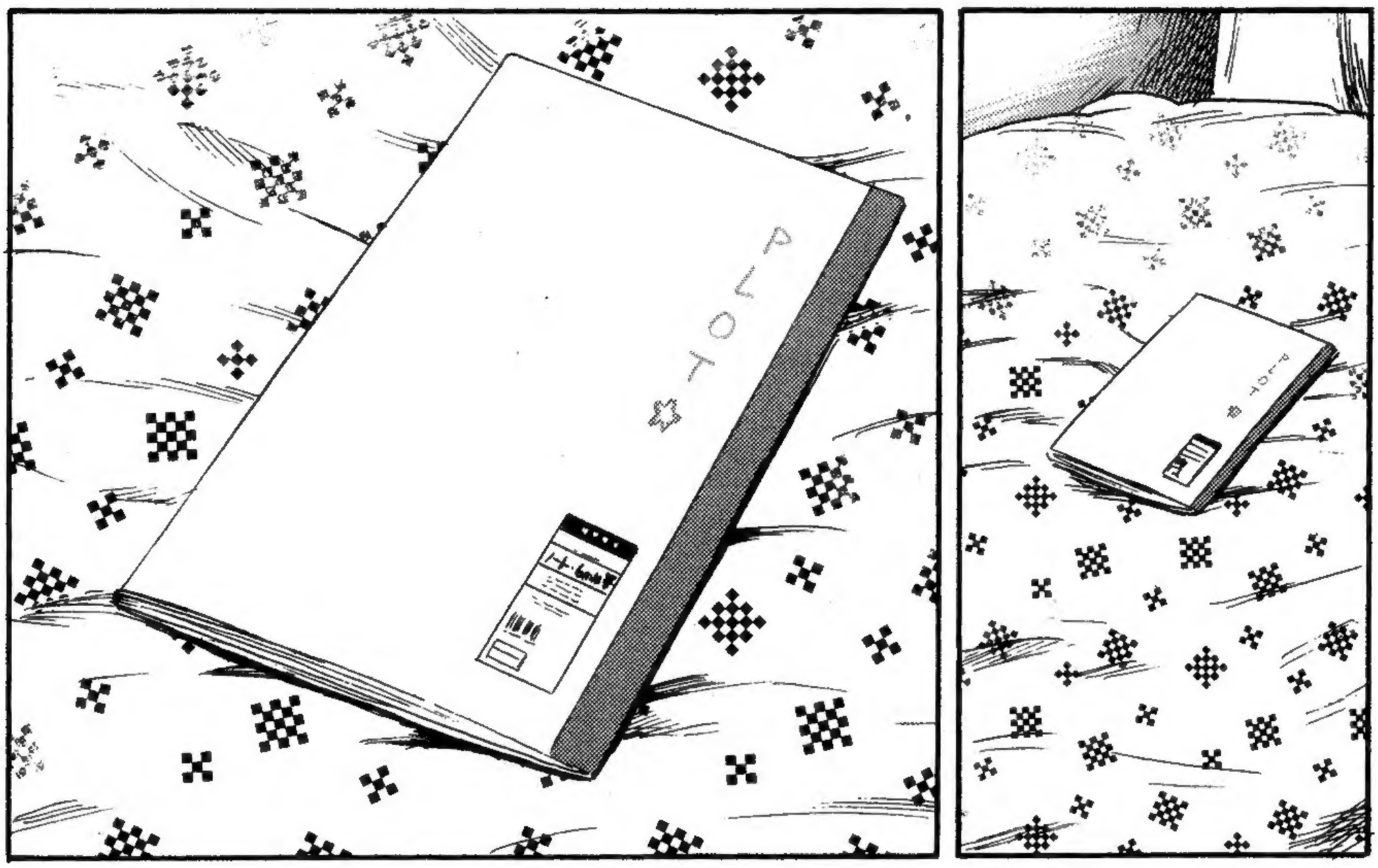
パタン…

AW
…

…


SHIT... STUPID. SHIT!
WHAT AM I FREAK-ING OUT FOR?



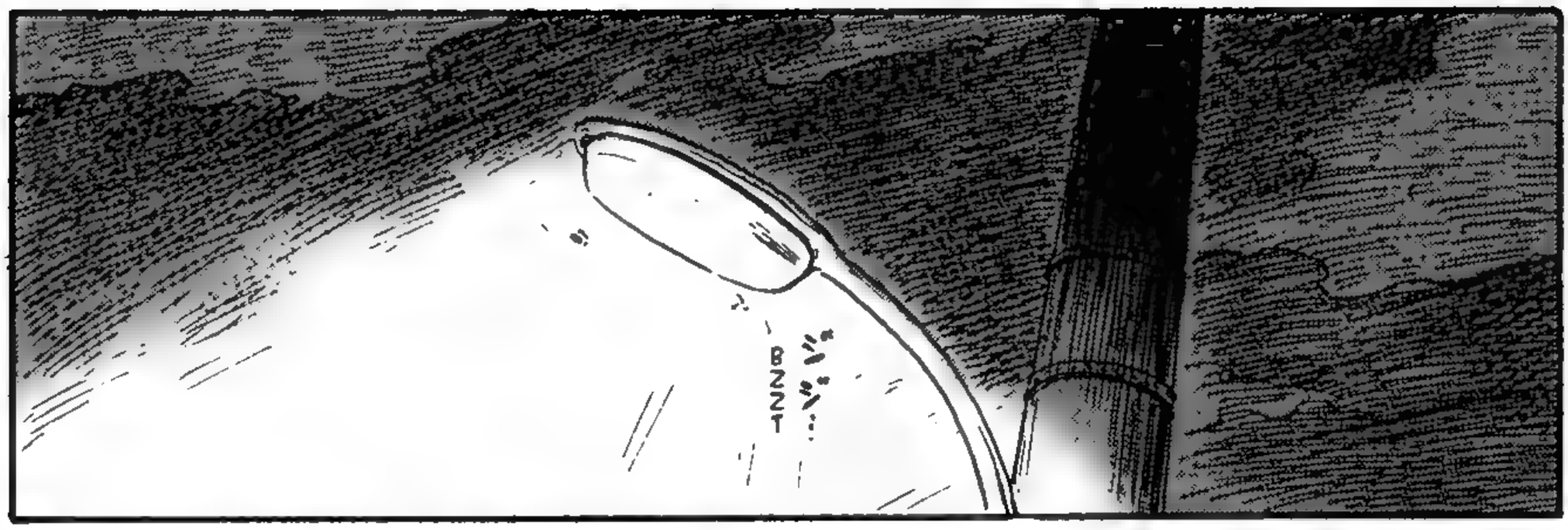


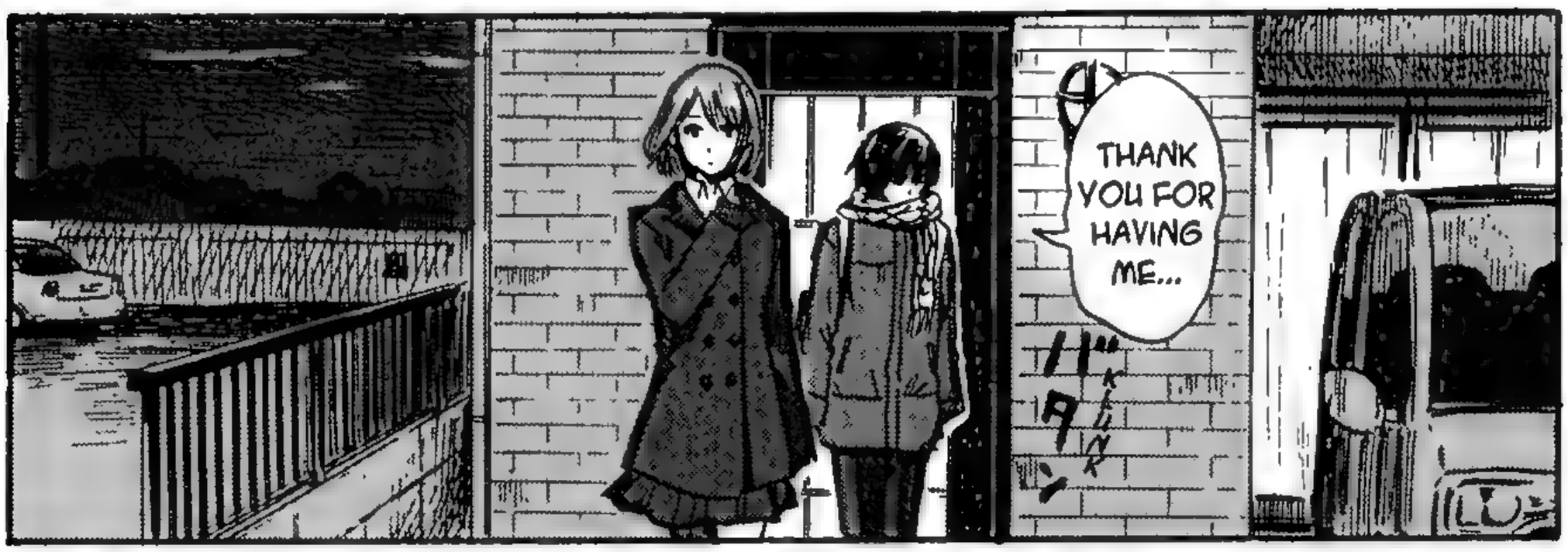
...
SHE'S
大島弓子
SHIMA
大島弓子
10
SOME-
BODY
LIKE
ME
PRE-
TENDING
TO BE A
REGULAR
GUY.
HA.
I'M AN
IDIOT...

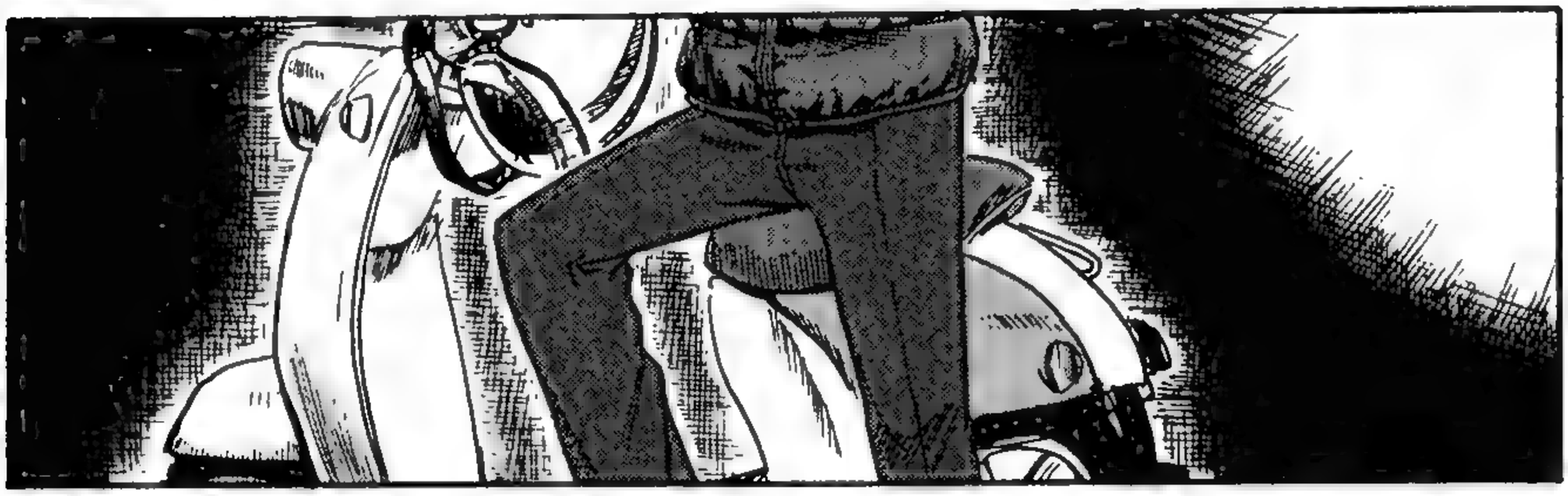
カノウ

SORRY, BUT CAN YOU COME DOWN FOR A MINUTE ?
HEY, KASUGA ...

NOW HE'S BEING REALLY PUSHY ABOUT WANTING TO MEET YOU.
IS IT OKAY ?
I JUST TOLD HIM ABOUT YOU.
I DON'T WANNA SNEAK AROUND AND RAISE DOUBTS, SO...


BZZT
ジジジ…


THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME...
ピンポーン



←P

THIS IS MY BOY-FRIEND, KOJI.

AND, UM...

SO, HERE WE ARE.

THIS IS KASUGA.

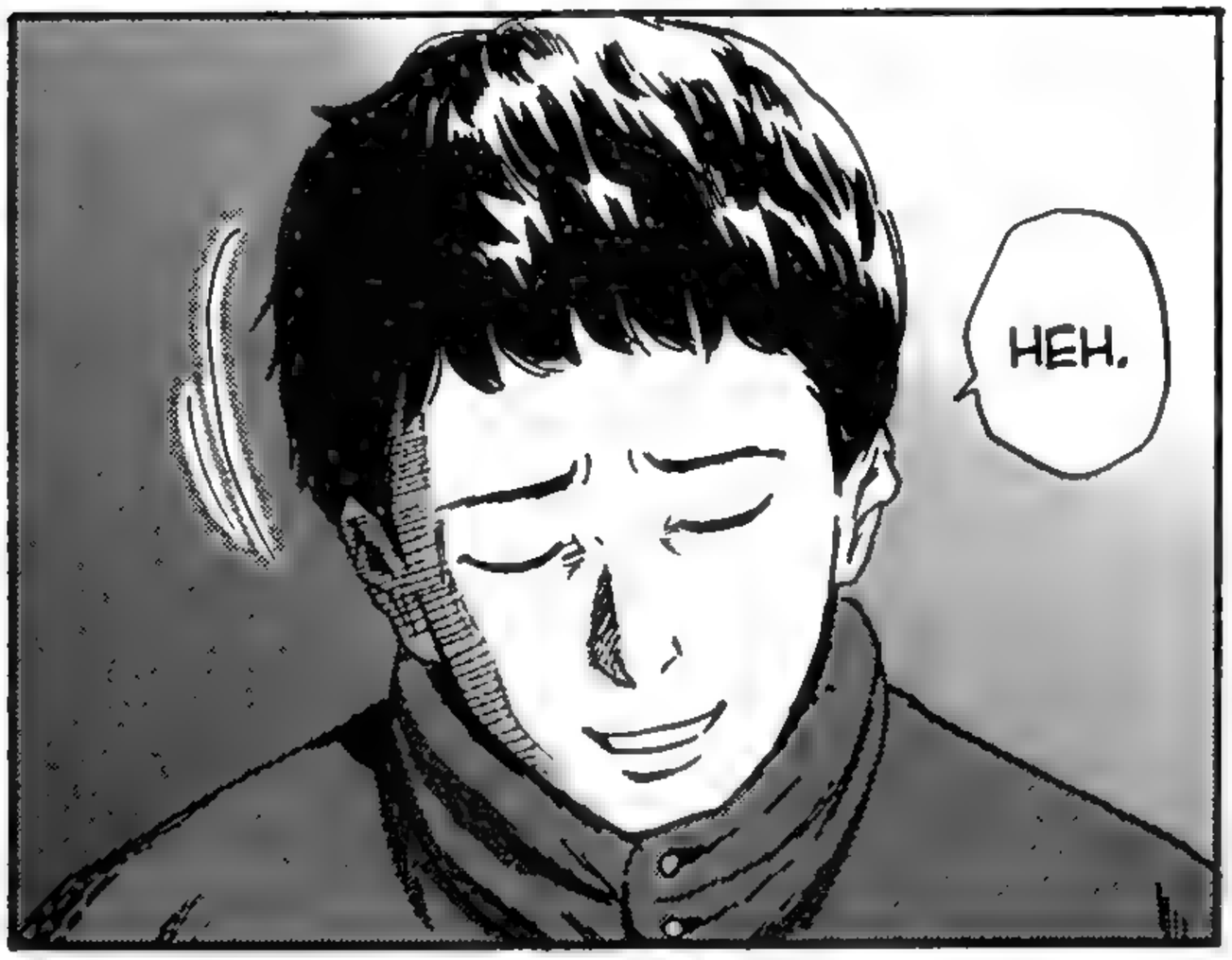
OH

ペコ BOW

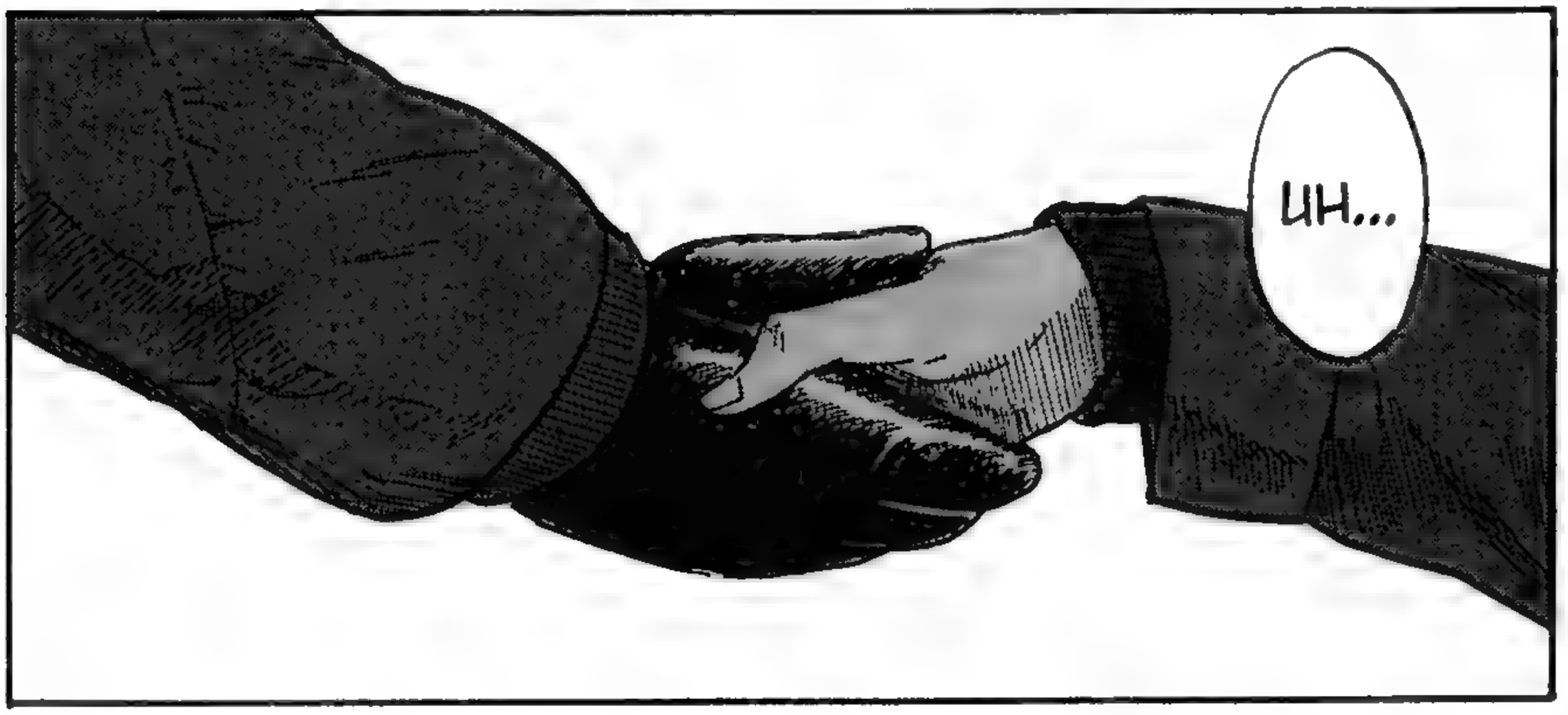
NICE TO MEET YOU ...

UH...

KRUNCH


HEH.

I'M KOJI FUJI-WARA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
HI THERE.


UH...

SO,

WHAT, YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS AYA?

I'M TAKAO KASUGA ...

LIKE-WISE.

AYA TOKIWA.

OH, OH, THAT'S ME.

... AYA ?

OH, AND I MET KOJI AT MY PART-TIME JOB.

HE'S FROM NORTH HIGH. HE'S A YEAR ABOVE US, A SENIOR.

KASUGA'S IN A DIFFERENT CLASS, CLASS B.

HUH ?

COULD YOU NOT JUST SHOW UP AT MY HOUSE? DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

BUT ANY-WAY ...

IT'S REALLY NOT LIKE THAT, OKAY?!

KASUGA'S A FRIEND.

JUST A FRIEND !

UM...

AHH ...

I GET IT, I GET IT!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE ANY MISUNDER-STANDING...

I'M SORRY... I REALLY AM.

...HUH?

I SWEAR.

I'LL MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN,

KASUGA ?

NO, HEY ...

YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

I SEE IT NOW,

BUT AYA'S REALLY HOT, ISN'T SHE?

A LOTTA GUYS ARE AFTER HER, SO SOMETIMES I JUST...

MAN, I GOT ALL SERIOUS FOR NOTHING.

HEY, AYA.

GEEZ.

NO ONE'S AFTER ME.

YEAH, EVERYONE'LL BE THERE.

WHAT, NOW?

WANNA GO TO THE USUAL PLACE?

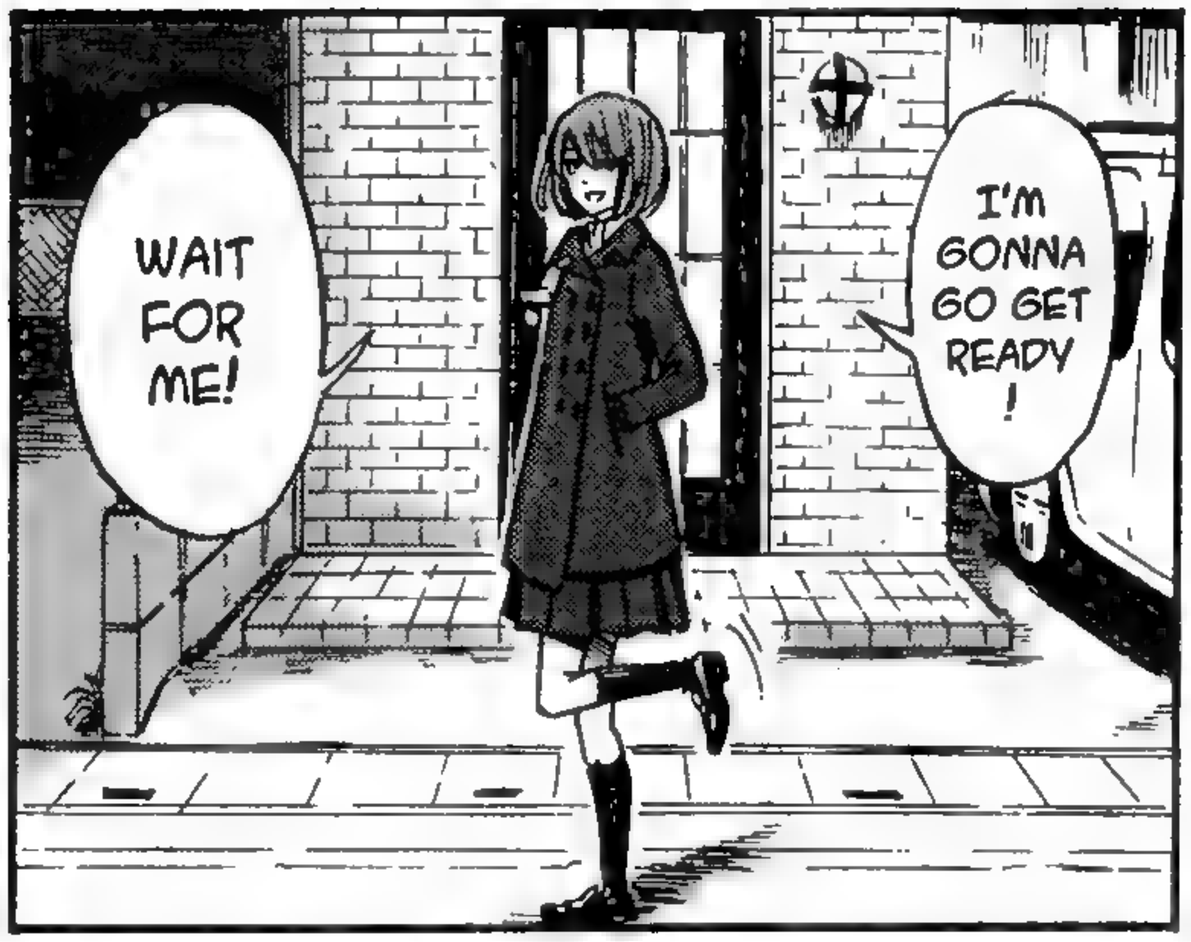
HMM

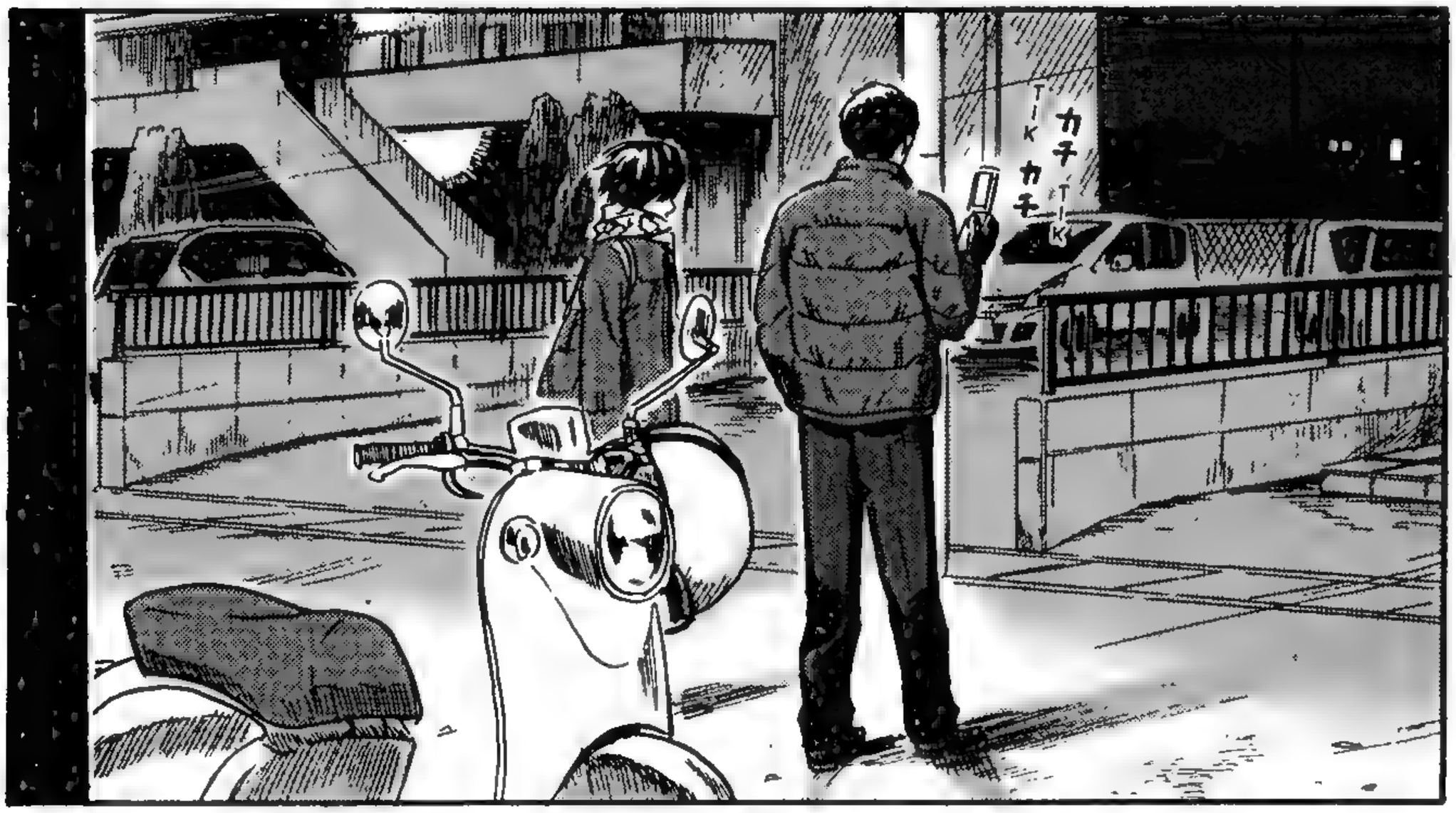
COULD BE FUN!

WE COULD BRING SOME PIZZA OVER.

C'MON.

TUP
TUP
TUP


WAIT FOR ME!
I'M GONNA GO GET READY !


TIK
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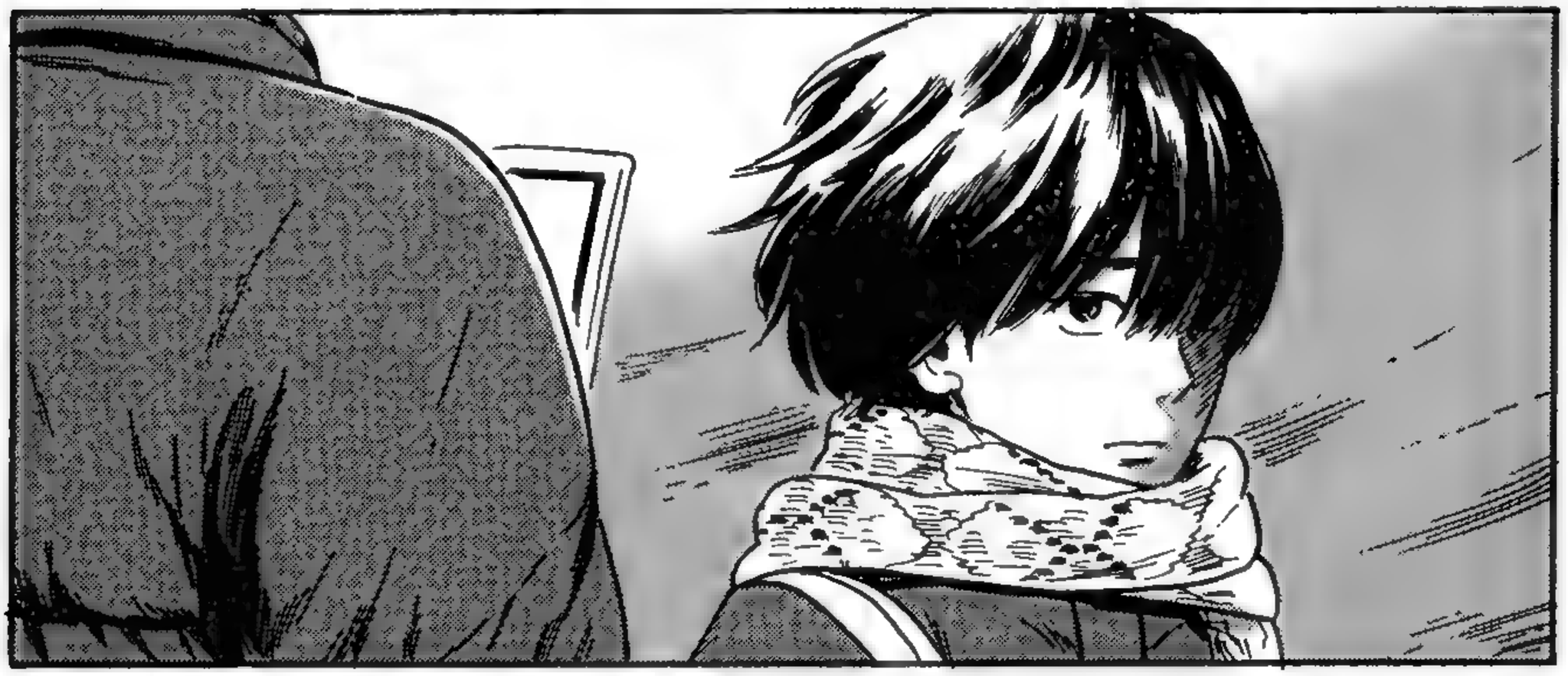


KRNCH

KRNCH

I GUESS I'LL BE GOING ...

WELL,

HEY, WAIT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO BE FRIENDS WITH AYA.
SORRY FOR SUS-PECTING YOU.

I JUST ...

NEVER THOUGHT OF... TOKIWA AND MYSELF THAT WAY.

UH, I REALLY ...

I... HAVEN'T HAD A... FRIEND IN YEARS.

I WAS JUST KINDA HAPPY.

FORGETTING THE KIND OF PERSON I AM...

ジジ... BZZZT

I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

SO

IN THE END ...

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEING HER IN THE SHADOW OF A FRIEND I USED TO HAVE.

I'LL PUT SOME SPACE BETWEEN ME AND TOKIWA FROM NOW ON.

I THINK THAT'D BE BEST...

I'M REALLY SORRY.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SPENT TIME WITH HER ALONE.

GRAB

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

...HUH ?

YOU'RE WEIRD! HAHA!

WHAT'S WITH YOU, MAN ?

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

ぐっ

SNUG

KASUGA, YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US.

OKAY!

Huh?

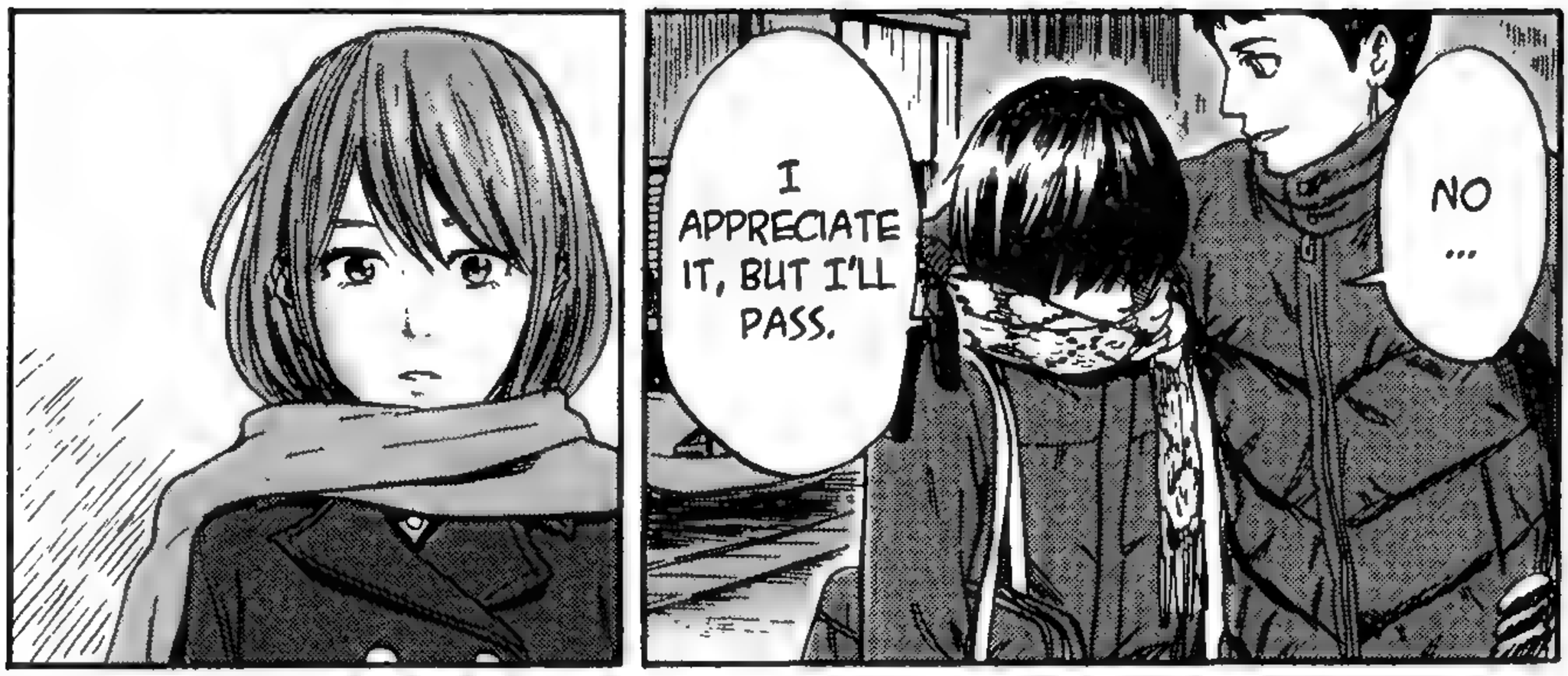
C'MON!

EVERY-BODY'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE ANY FRIEND OF AYA'S!

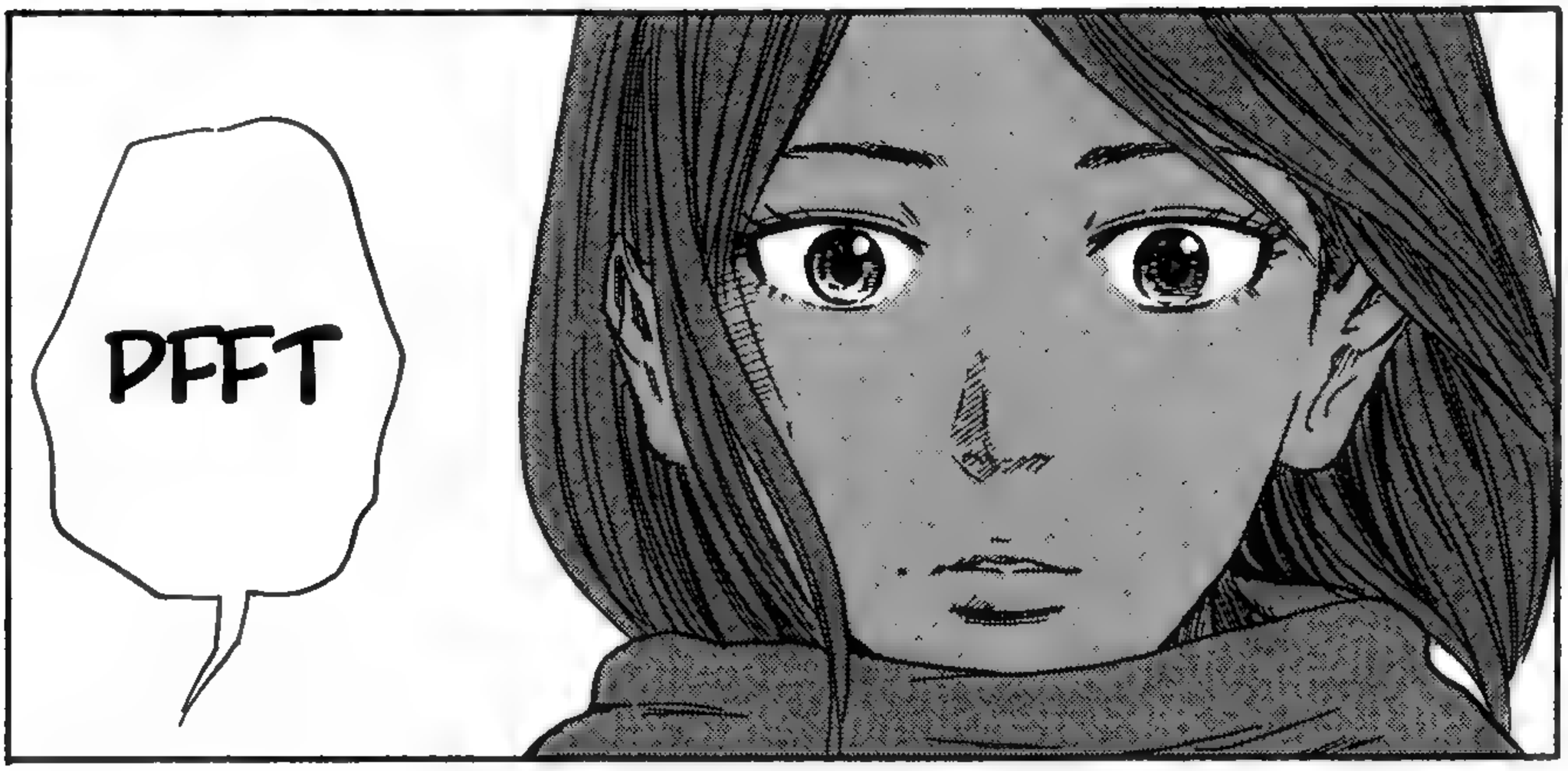
I'VE NEVER MET A GUY LIKE YOU!

YOU'LL COME, WON'T YOU?

PIZZA, TOO— MY TREAT.


I APPRECIATE IT, BUT I'LL PASS.
NO ...

I'M SORRY ...
I'LL ONLY ANNOY THEM.
'CAUSE I'M A... GHOST.


PFFT

DON'T SWEAT IT! NOBODY CARES ABOUT YOU!

YOU'RE NOT A GHOST, MAN!

STOP TRYING TO ACT COOL!

HEH ...

...

RIGHT ?

OKAY, LET'S GO!

I GUESS NOT...

ゥ
ゥ
ゥ
ゥ
ゥ
WHOOOO

OH GOD,
I'M SICK OF THIS COLD.
MAN, IT'S CHILLY!

HEY, KASUGA!

WHAT, REALLY?
YEAH, BUT I HATE THE HEAT EVEN MORE.

IT'S CALLED THE KAGOYAMA CONDOS ...

UH ...

OH, THERE! I KNOW THAT PLACE.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE, BY THE WAY?

WHEN?

YOU SAID YOU MOVED HERE, RIGHT?

BEFORE THAT I LIVED IN GUNMA.

OH...

SECOND YEAR OF... MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WHY'D YOU MOVE?

JOB TRANS-FER OR SOME-THING ?

HUH, I SEE !

SOME-THING LIKE... THAT.

YEAH, KINDA ...

AH, HERE WE ARE.

'KAY.

I'M GONNA GO PARK MY SCOOTER.

TUP TUP TUP

WHOOOOO

ARE YOU OKAY? IS THIS BOTHERING YOU?

SORRY... ABOUT ALL THIS.

KA-SUGA

ピッ

I'M FINE, I'LL STAY FOR A BIT THEN GO HOME.

...THANKS.

bwa ha ha ha ha

YO, WHAT'S UP?
ガラガラ
RATTLE
RATTLE
KOJI'S HERE !
ガヤガヤ
HEY !

YAY, IT'S AYA!

GOOD EVE-NING.

'SUP, 'SUP!

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

EH, JUST HANGING OUT.

EEK, TAMAE! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

AYA! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOR-EVER!

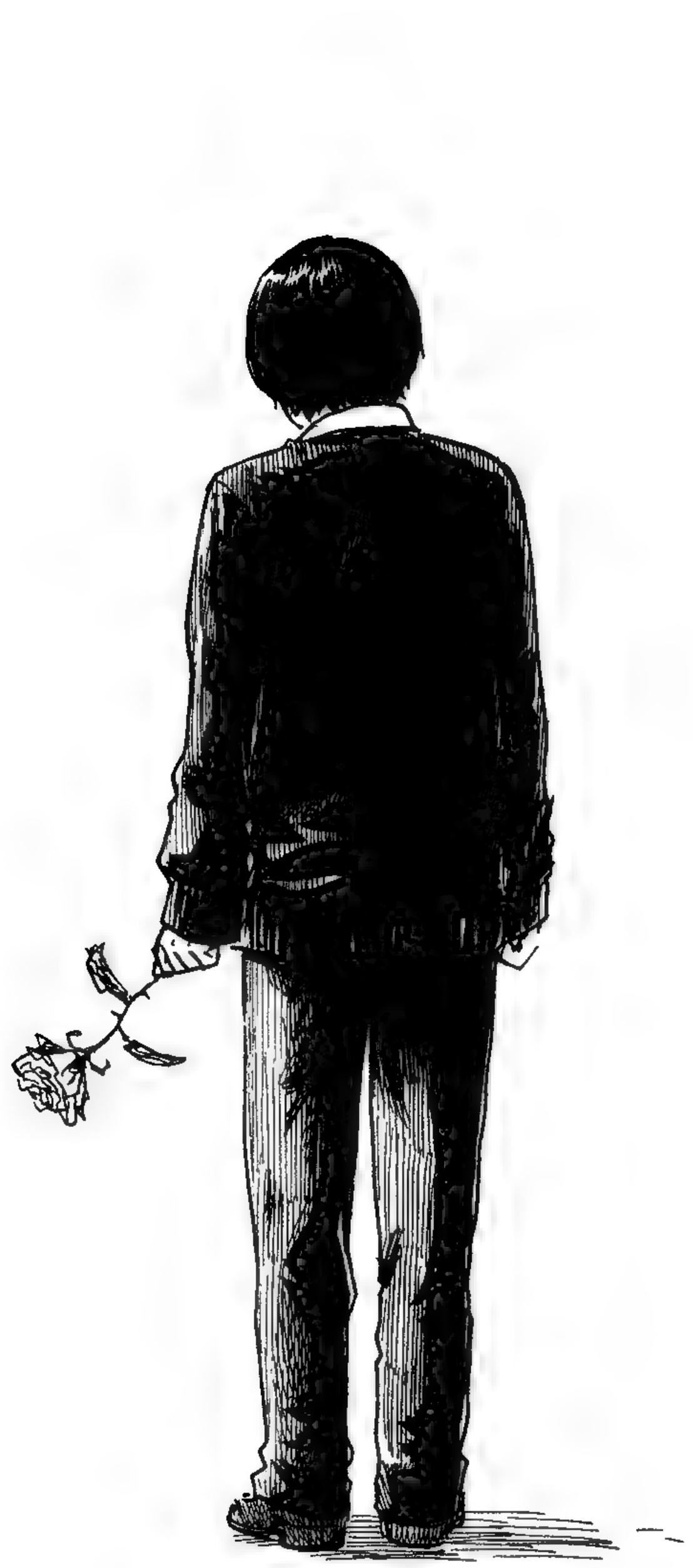
UH

HE'S PRETTY WEIRD AND FUNNY!

THIS IS AYA'S FRIEND KASUGA!

OH, HEY, I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU.

HI THERE, KASUGA!
OH, YEAH?
C'MON, SIT HERE IN THE MIDDLE!
NICE TO MEE-CHA!
WHAT'RE YOU STANDING THERE FOR? SIT!!



Chapter 39: Summoned from the Abyss

BWA HA HA HA !

AND THEN —

MR. KUBO COMES TRAIPSING IN...

HA HA HA !

OH MAN, HERE IT COMES!

PFF

YOU BAS-TUU-URDS"!

ALL LIKE, "I'VE SHOWN UP FOR YER SAKES,

I CAN TOTALLY HEAR HIM SAYING THAT!

WHAT A DRAG!

BWA HAHA HAHA!

FOR REAL?!

HA HA HA HA

THAT'S HILAR-IOUS.

WELL, YOU KNOW —

HA HA

HEY !

WHY'D YOU TELL THEM ?!

KOJI PRACTICED FOR REAL TO GET IT DOWN PAT.

THAT LINE JUST NOW ?

KOJI, THAT'S SO CUTE !

TEE HEE

BWA HA HA !

AHA HA HA

HEY.

CAN I HAVE THAT SLICE?

YEAH, SURE.

MAN, I BUSTED MY GUT.

UH...

EAT UP!

YOU HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE BITE YET.

TH-THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

I'LL HAVE A SLICE, THEN.

UM... S-SORRY...

GUESS THIS ONE...

UH

UM...

NYOM もにゅう…

MUNCH もっちゃ

MUNCH もっちゃ

MUNCH もっちゃ

MUNCH もっちゃ

OH... THE PIZZA, I MEAN!

THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.

YES? HA HA ...

UM, HUH ?!

HEE HEE

"Oh... The pizza, I mean!"

GYA HAHA HA

Aha ha ha

BWA HA HA HA HA

GUHAW

HEE HEE

HAH... WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX!

THAT WAS TOO CREEPY, MAN!

HEY, HEY!

SORRY.

UH... HA HA

...
HUH
?

SO ARE YOU GUYS, LIKE, CLOSE ?

KASUGA, WAS IT?

YOU'RE AYA'S FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT GOT YOU TOGETHER ?

OH, UM,

YEAH, YOU COULD SAY.

AND WE KINDA JUST KEPT HANGING OUT.

WELL ...

WE HAPPENED TO GO TO KARAOKE TOGETHER ...

OH, UM...

I DON'T GO ALL THAT MUCH...

WHAT KINDA SONGS DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

OOH, DO YOU GO TO KARA-OKE OFTEN?

DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

HUH.

OKAY ...

THEN ...

I DON'T.

NO ...

HOW MANY GIRLS HAVE YOU GONE OUT WITH?

WHAT ABOUT BEFORE NOW?

NEVER REALLY GONE OUT WITH ANYONE.

I'VE ...

SO YOU'RE A VIRGIN?!

WHOA!

DUDE, WHY YOU BEING SO DIRECT ?!

BWA HA HA

GEEZ, YOU GUYS!

OKAY, HA HA HA...

IT'S

OOH!

HEY, SO...

IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE?

SORRY ...

I DON'T REALLY GET THAT STUFF...

NO, UH...

WELL ...

SO YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY GIRLS YOU LIKE?

HUH?

"THAT STUFF"?

ALL RIGHT!

WE HAD A CRUSH ON IN MIDDLE SCHOOL !

NOW LET'S ALL FESS UP TO THE NAME OF THE PERSON

GOOD IDEA !

YEAH !!

HA HA

HUH ?

RIGHT ?

YOU MUST'VE HAD SOMEONE YOU LIKED,

ALL RIGHT, HERE WE GO.

HEY C'MON... PLEASE, WAIT...

Bam!

THREE, TWO, ONE ...

I...

NO... UM...

HA HA HA HA

C'MON, KOJI...

JUST SAY IT, SPIT IT OUT!

HEY!

WOO-HOO!

SEE? IT'S EASIER TO JUST BLURT IT OUT!

AIKO!

IT WAS AIKO YAMA-NAKA!

FINE, I'LL GO FIRST THEN!

THREE, TWO, ONE ...

NOW !

I DON'T WANT TO TELL ...

...

...

UH OH ...

HEY.

KIND OF LIKE AYA?

TELL ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT WAS SHE...

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF EARLIER.

"I SEE AYA IN THE SHADOW OF A FRIEND I USED TO HAVE."

AM I RIGHT?

WHOA!

NO WAY!

AS PUNISHMENT YOU GOTTA SAY HER NAME!

DON'T BE PROJECTIN' STUFF ONTO MY GIRL, YA HEAR ME?

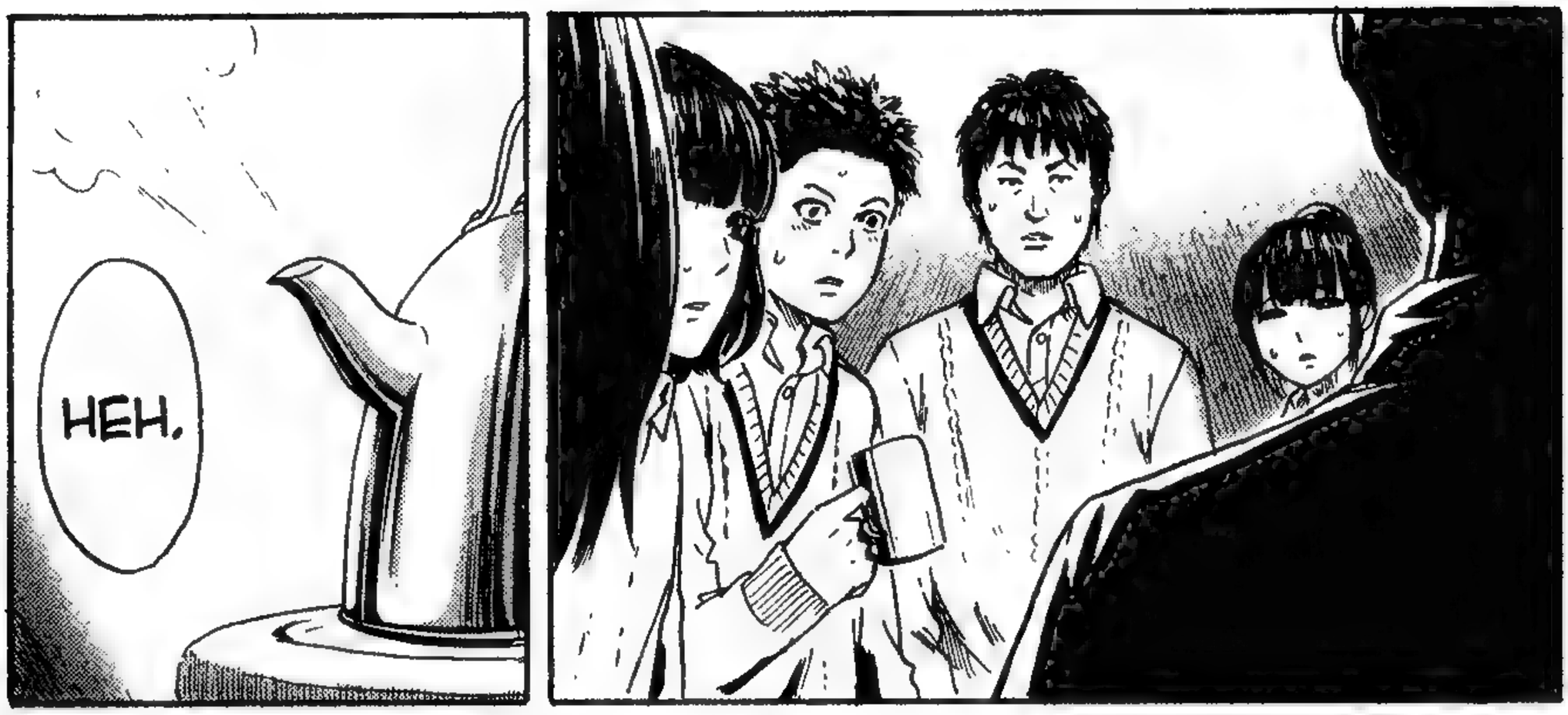
THREE, TWO, ONE ...

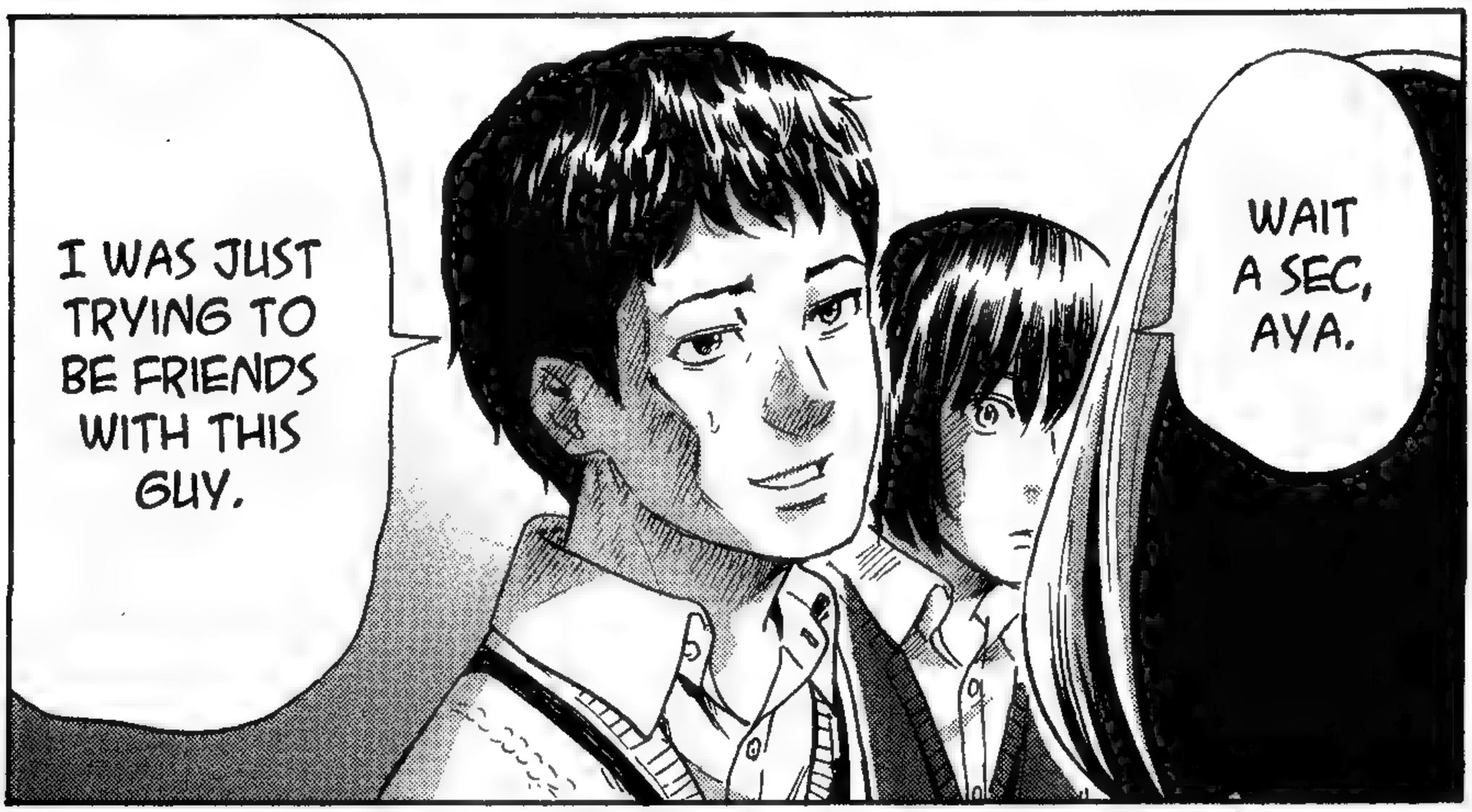
Hey !!!

THIS IS NO FUN— WHY DON'T YOU KNOCK IT OFF?

THAT'S ENOUGH.

AH?


HEH.


I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDS WITH THIS GUY.
WAIT A SEC, AYA.

YOU SEE ?
SO I WAS TRYING TO HELP HIM ALONG.
HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING FUNNY YET,

AT ALL.

WELL, IT'S NOT FUN

YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.

KASUGA ...

WHY ARE YOU COVERING FOR THIS GUY?

WAIT,

OH.

...

YOU'RE JUST ACTING STUPID, KOJI, THAT'S ALL.

I'M NOT COVERING FOR HIM.

KISS AND MAKE UP, OKAY? M-A-K-E-U-P!

BOTH OF YOU!

CLATTER

HEY...

HEY, HEY NOW!

VIBE? DON'T ASK ME.

THIS ISN'T COOL, THIS AIN'T COOL AT ALL.

AW, MAN!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THIS ODD VIBE?

YOU GOT A PROBLEM, LET'S HEAR IT. ALL OF IT.
WHAT, ARE YOU THAT UNHAPPY WITH ME?
I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S UNHAPPY WITH ME.
NAH, I DON'T.

THIS GUY!

I'M NOT HAPPY THAT YOU LET THIS GUY INTO YOUR ROOM!!!

YEAH, I AM!

I DON'T CARE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I AM!

I ASKED OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND YOU NEVER DID,

AND THEN YOU LET THIS GUY WALTZ RIGHT IN?!

"I DON'T LET ANYONE INTO MY ROOM, EVER"?!

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU TELL ME,

NO WAY.

HUH?

REALLY?

TRUST YOU, YOU KNOW?

I...

...

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?

BUT

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE KIND OF GIRL WHO CHEATS.

WE'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR A YEAR

BUT I'VE ALWAYS FELT THIS... WALL.

COULD IT BE THAT YOU JUST DON'T LIKE ME?

KOJI ...

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO BREAK THAT WALL DOWN FOR ME?

KOJI
....

YOU'RE EMPTY,

C'MON, WAIT...

A... AYA ...

ガラガラ RATTLE

SLAM

RATTLE

Aaaagh

AAH

KOJI ...

Let's go do some karaoke or some-thing!

Yeah ?!

I can't stand it! This fuckin' sucks!

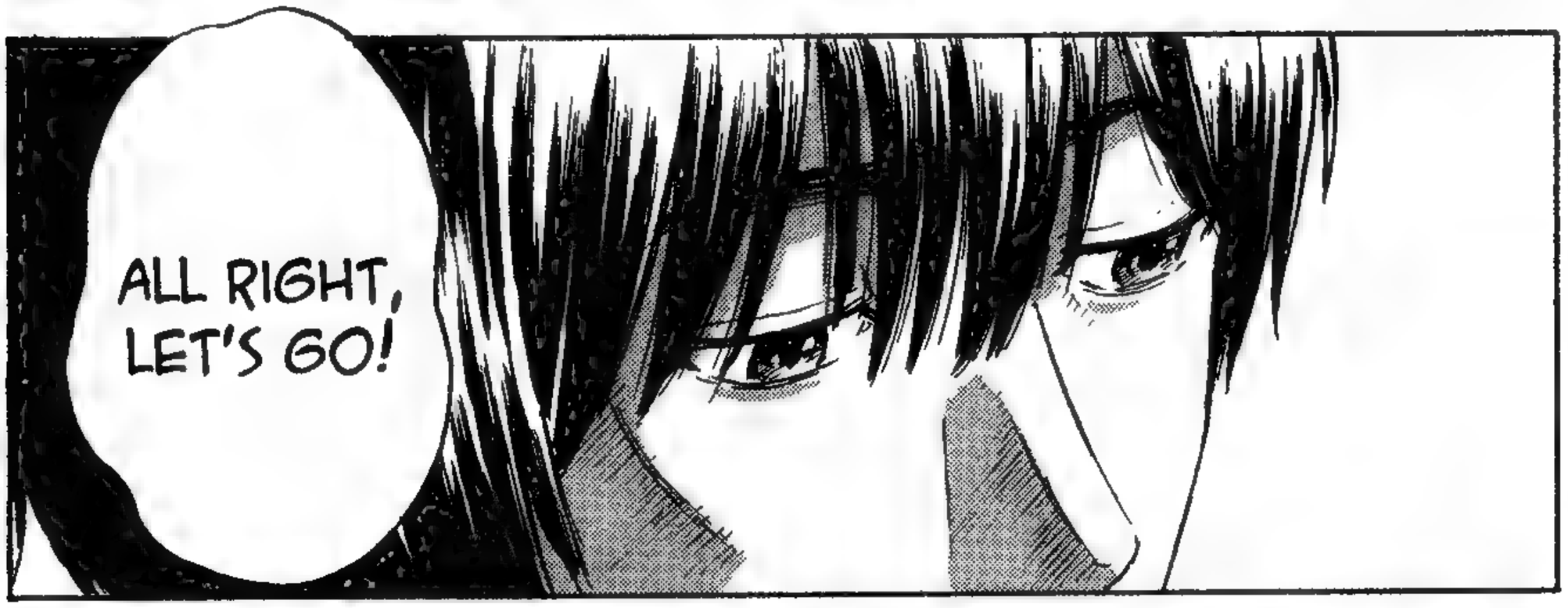
HEY.

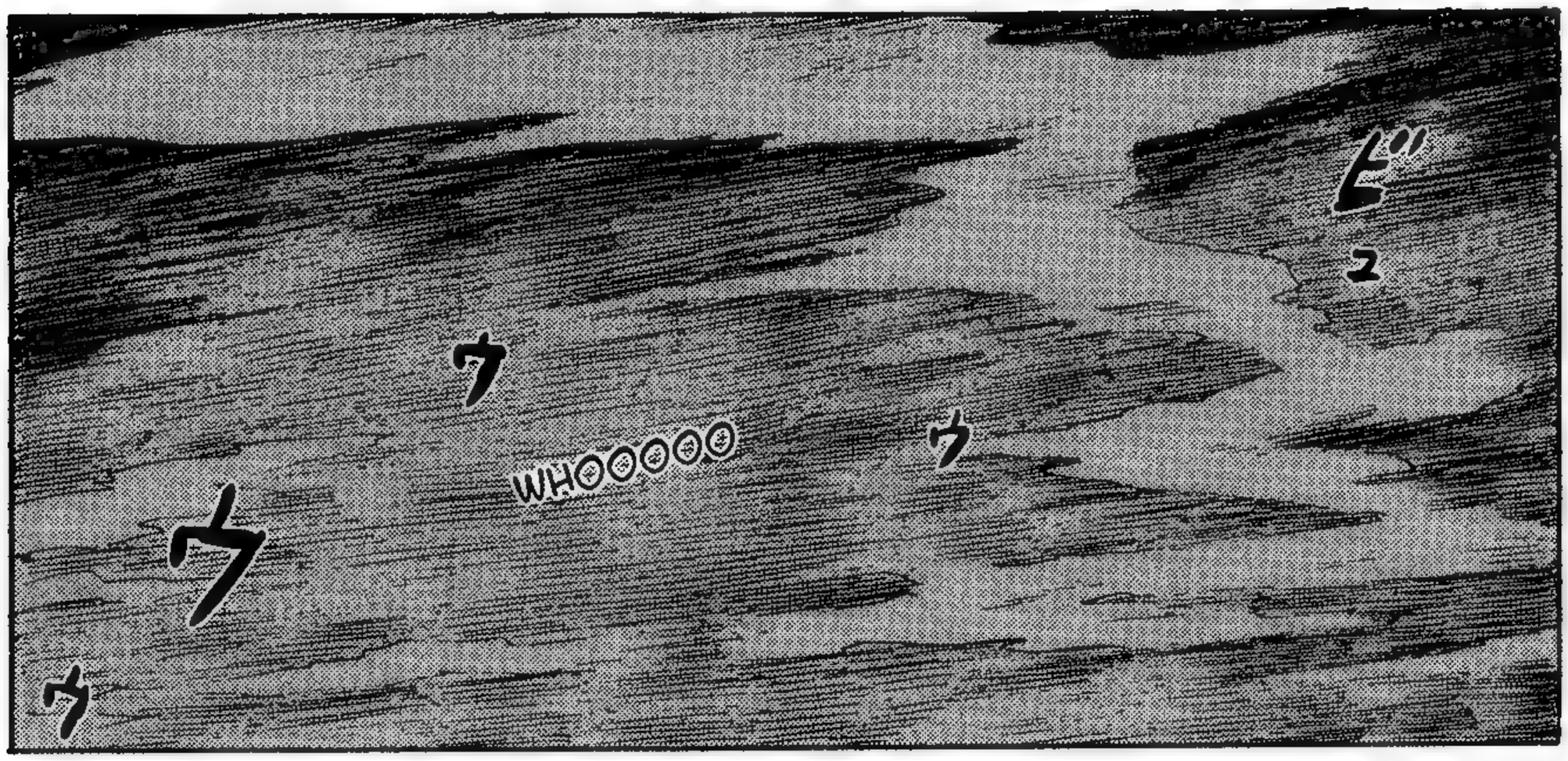
SURE, WHY NOT !

Y-YEAH !

HA HA ...

FUCK OFF ALREADY, HUH?


ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!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WHOOOOO
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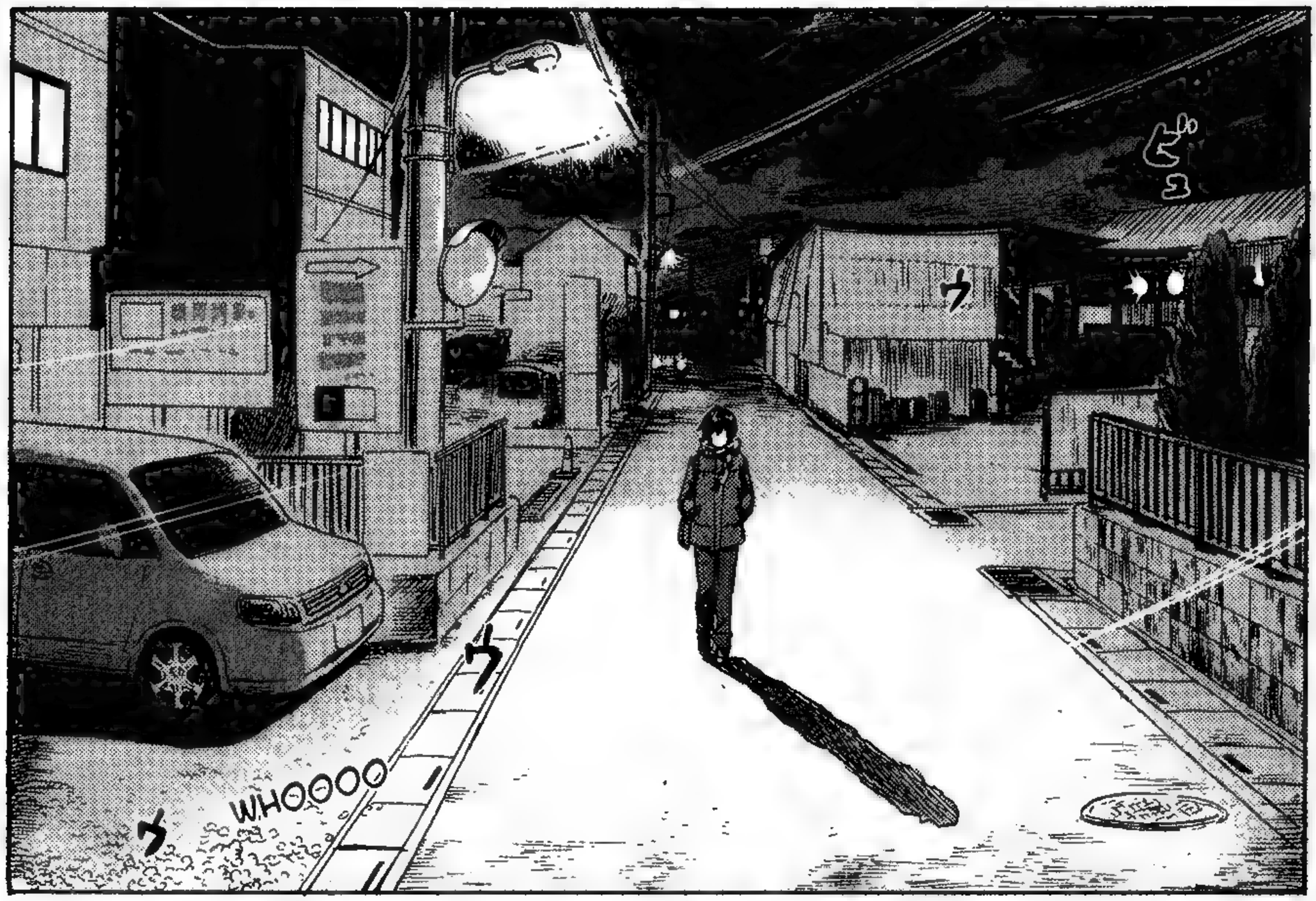

ピッ
3
ウ
WHOOOO
ナ"
KRNCH
ナ"
KRNCH

...
TOKIWA.

FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH THAT.

I'M SORRY, KASUGA.

THANK YOU FOR... RESCUING ME BACK THERE.

...TOKIWA.

...
TOKIWA.
I JUST SAID WHAT I WAS THINKING, THAT'S ALL.
NOPE.
LET ME IN YOUR ROOM WHEN YOU LET NO ONE ELSE?
WHY DID YOU
WHY?
THERE ARE BOOKS IN MY ROOM.
'CAUSE ...

THAT I LOVE BOOKS.

I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE

WHY NOT ?

...

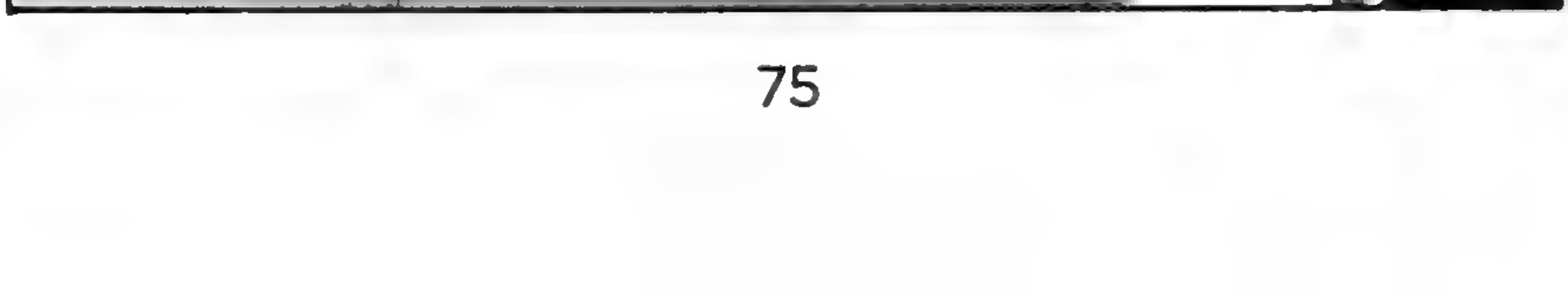
SO I... FIGURED IT'S NOT SOMETHING I WANT PEOPLE TO...KNOW ABOUT ME.

AND NEVER HAVE, I'M SURE.

I MEAN, KOJI AND THE REST OF THEM DON'T READ AT ALL

I GUESS I'M EMPTY, TOO...
ビュー
WELL,
ぐぅ
WHOOO

I'VE BEEN FAKING MYSELF ALL THIS TIME?
I WONDER IF



I'M AN EMPTY PERSON TOO.

... TOKIWA.

SINCE I'LL BE EMPTY NO MATTER HOW FAR I GO.

BORROWING BOOKS FROM YOU

SO I'VE BEEN MEANING TO QUIT

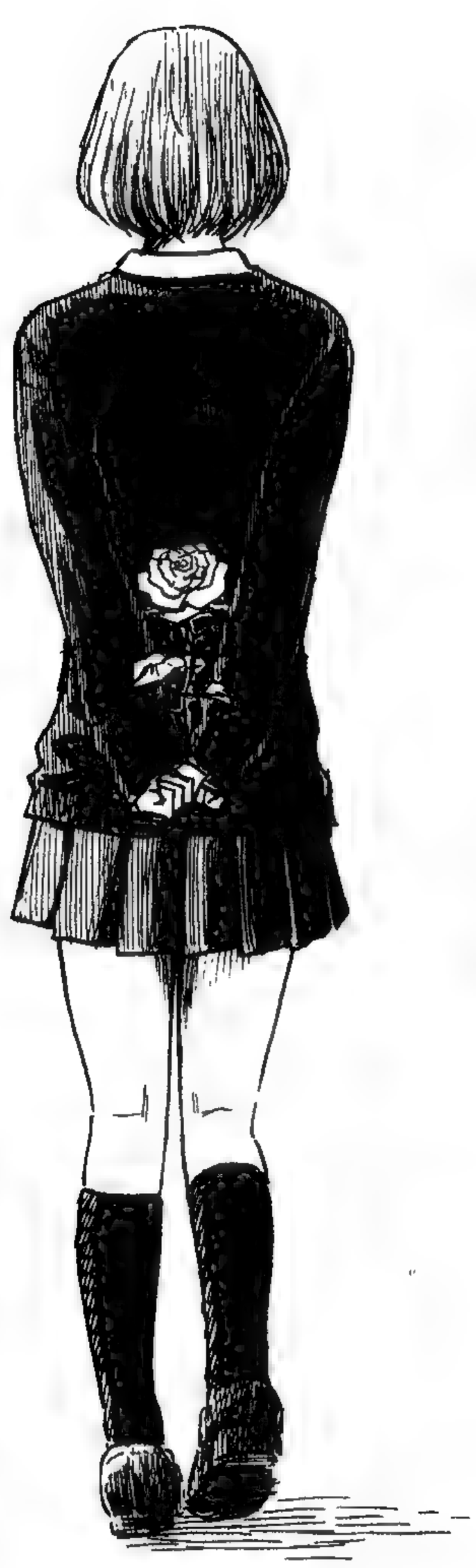
KEEP ON LENDING ME MORE PLEASE.

BUT...

ALSO... I WANT TO READ

YOUR OWN WORK.

OKAY.



Chapter 40: Tearing the Cosmos' Happy Harmony

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

GUESS I'LL SETTLE FOR CREAM-FILLED.

THAT'LL BE 500 YEN.

AH, A YAKI-SOBA ROLL— MINE!

YOU'RE SOLD OUT OF CHO-COLATE ROLLS?

I GOT A CROQUETTE AND CURRY BREAD.

SERI-OUSLY ?

I'LL TRADE YOU MY YAKI-SOBA FOR THE CURRY !

HEY, KASUGA, WHAT'D YOU GET?

THE FACT THAT NEXT WEEK IS CHRISTMAS !

HEY, HAVE YOU NOTICED ?

WHAT ?

I BET KIMURA'S GONNA HUMP HIS GIRL LIKE CRAZY. SHE'S UGLY, BUT STILL.

NO, I MEAN, WE'LL NEVER BE 17 AT THIS TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.

DAMN, THAT'S SOON. YEAR'S ALREADY OVER, HUH?

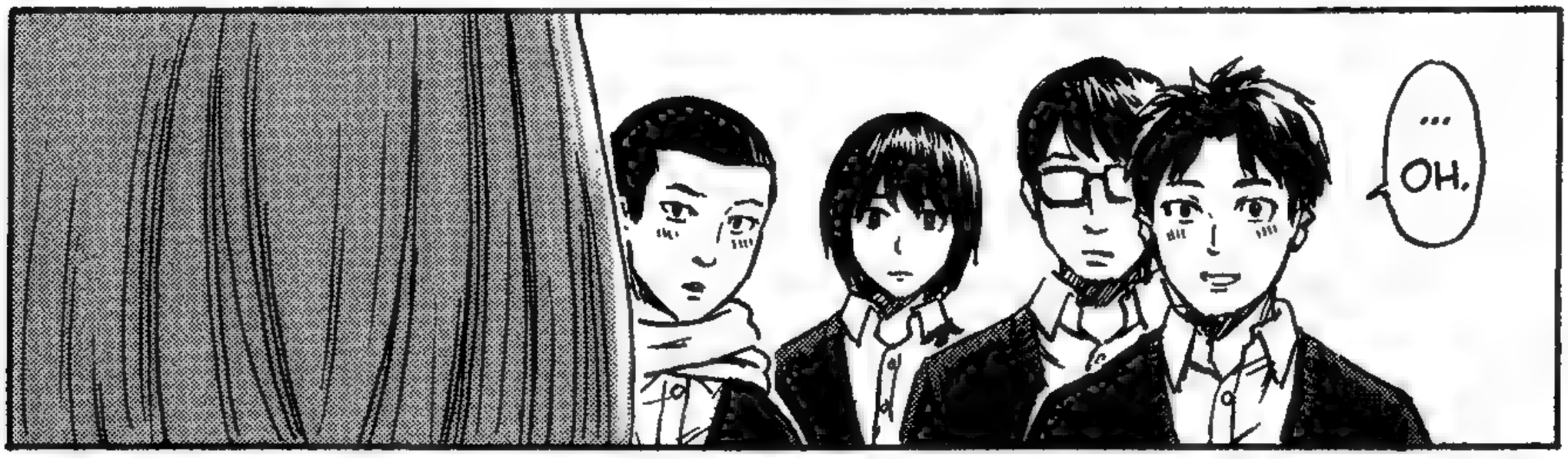
OH ...

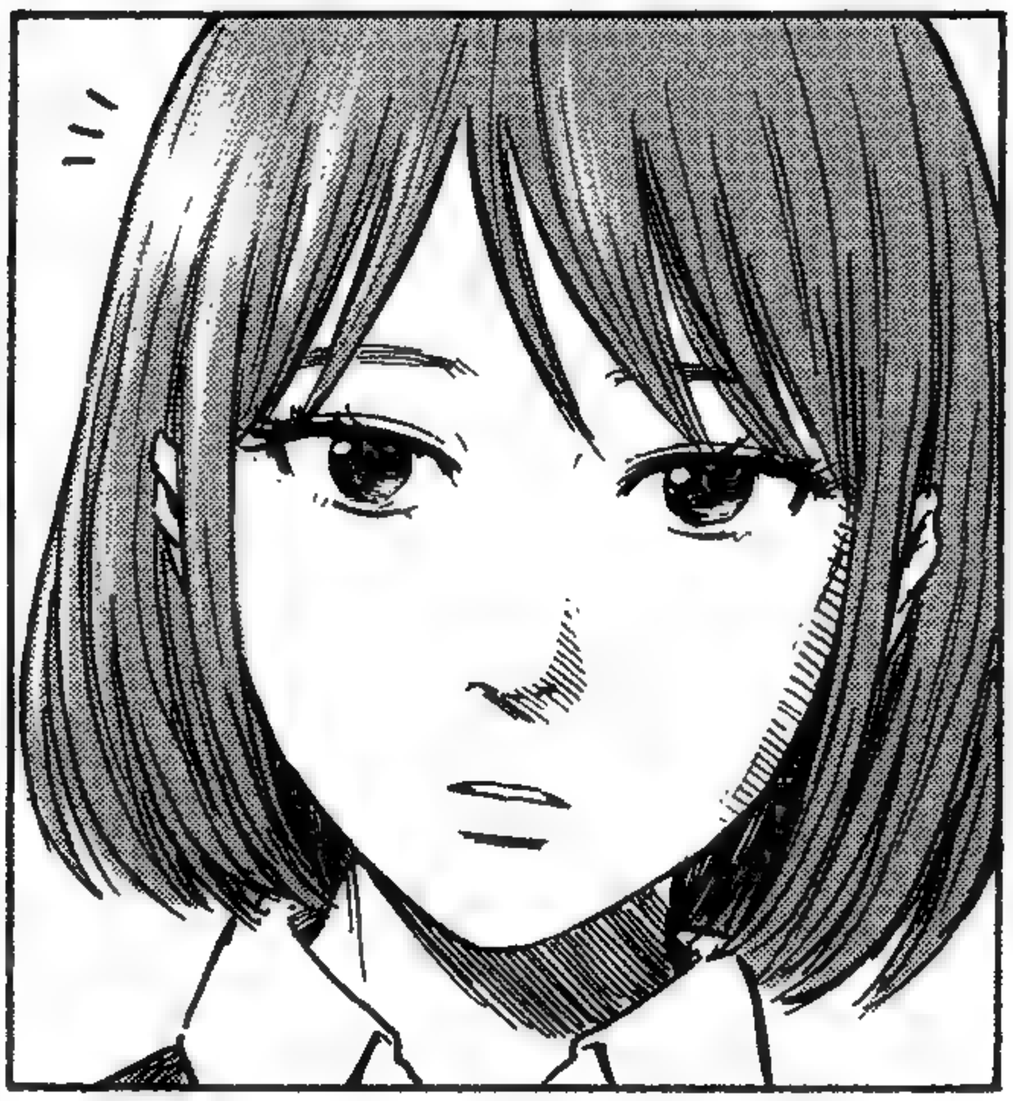
NO, THANK YOU!

C'MON, WHY NOT ?!

HEY, LET'S HAVE A PARTY AT MY PLACE, THEN!

WHILE I'LL BE HOME EATING CAKE MY MOM MADE...


...
OH.



HEY,
HEY,
HEY,
HEY.

HEY,
HEY,
HEY,
HEYYY
!

...
HM
?

UH-UH, NOTH-ING!

... WHAT? NO.

WHY, YOU SON OF A...

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

WHAT WAS THAT SMILE JUST NOW?

I COULD USE A LUCKY BREAK.

AW, MAN.

WELL, I GUESS TOKIWA DOES HAVE A BOY-FRIEND.

ARE YOU SURE?

ズ SHE !!

VRRRRRRRRRRRR

12:15
12/18 12:15
Tokiwa
(no title)
Meet you behind the building after school.
REPLY
OK
MENU
TEXT
Okay.
TIK TIK
I WANT A FRIGGIN' GIRL-FRIEND ...
DING DONG
カコン
コーン
DONG DING

ZAKK
ZAKK

OH, HERE.

IT'S FINE.

Soji Shimada

The Phantom Russian Warship

THANK YOU,

IT WAS REALLY GREAT!

DID I MAKE YOU WAIT?

UM... I BROUGHT IT.

...

YEAH ...

HUH ?

... THIS.

PLOT

I BROUGHT IT!

ごくっ

YUP.

I MEAN, YOU SAID YOU WOULD.

UM, SO I CAN READ IT?

TH-THANKS!

WHAT, HERE?!

OKAY, THEN.

MAY I?

YEAH, OF COURSE!

OH, RIGHT. SORRY.

WELL, WHERE SHOULD WE GO THEN?

HUH?

I MEAN, WHAT IF SOMEONE SHOWS UP?

SOME-PLACE WE COULD SIT BACK ...

MY ROOM'S KINDA... YEAH.

MM ...

I KNOW. WHAT ABOUT KARAOKE ?

AH!

HEY, COME ON.

AH... YEAH.

ALL RIGHT THEN!

KARA-OKE PLACES GIVE YOU A PRIVATE ROOM.

YEAH ?

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

Jingle bells,

Jingle bells

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

ha ha ha

Yes, welcome !

CLAMOR

IT'S KINDA CROWDED, HUH?

I CAN'T WAIT!

NO WAY.

MUST BE A CONCERT OR SOME-THING.

AH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.

HM ?

OH... YEAH, IT IS.

SO IT WASN'T YOUR SHIFT TODAY?

TOKIWA ...

...

UM

I TOOK TIME OFF.

IT JUST SEEMED KINDA AWK-WARD.

OH.

AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM KOJI.

IT'S A PAIN.

I'LL JUST QUIT!

DANG, MAYBE

AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?

I SEE ...

Bwa ha ha ha

I DON'T KNOW.

mmm.

Haaaw ha ha ha ha!

Haw haw haw ...

That's hilari-ous!

I busted a gut!

Gasp

* Gasp *

I can't breathe ...

Bwa haha, shit.

WHEW
17
SO...
CAN I READ IT?
Wanna see you, wanna see you

OH.

NOK NOK

OUR DRINKS AREN'T HERE YET.

WAIT.

TWO HOT COFFEES, COMING UP.

'SCUSE ME.

KACHIK

ガチャ: KACHIK

ENJOY.

カチッ CHIK

SLRRP

GULP

KLAK KLAK KLAK

WHEW ...

カチャ TIK

LOOK, KASU-GA,

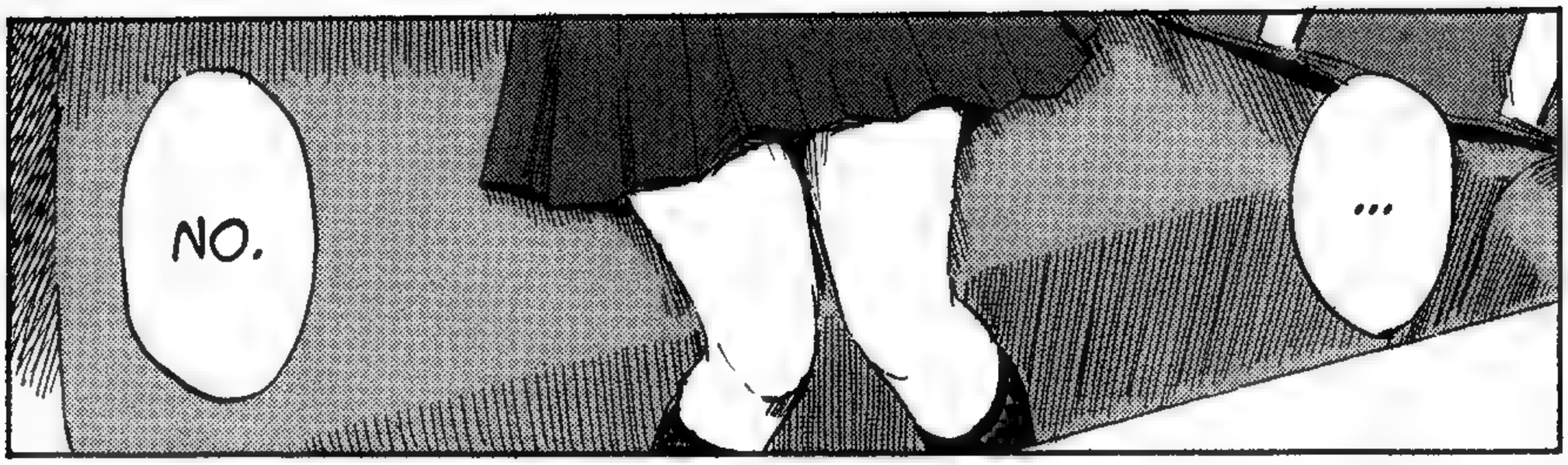
THIS REALLY IS JUST THE PLOT.

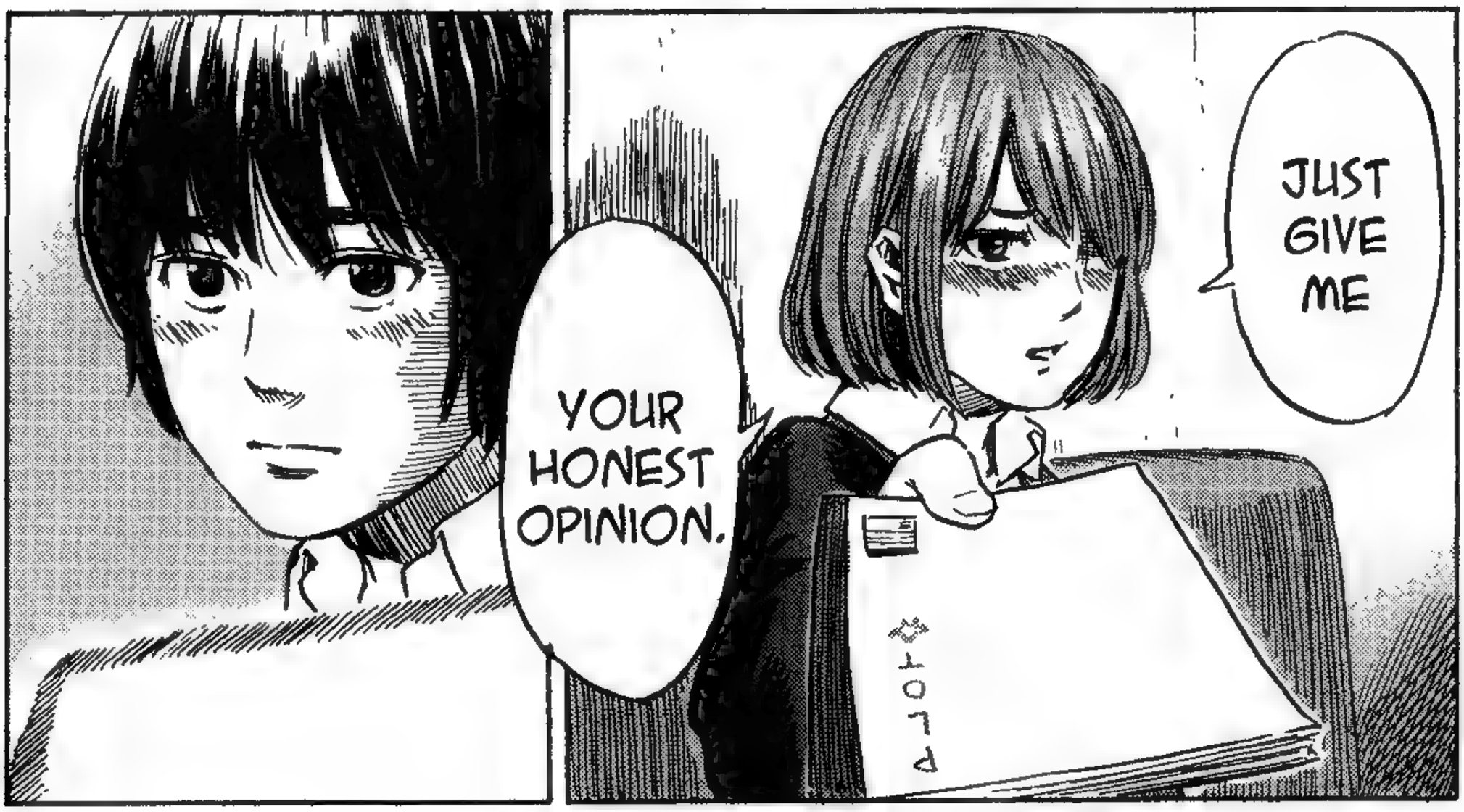
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT EVERY-THING OUT YET.

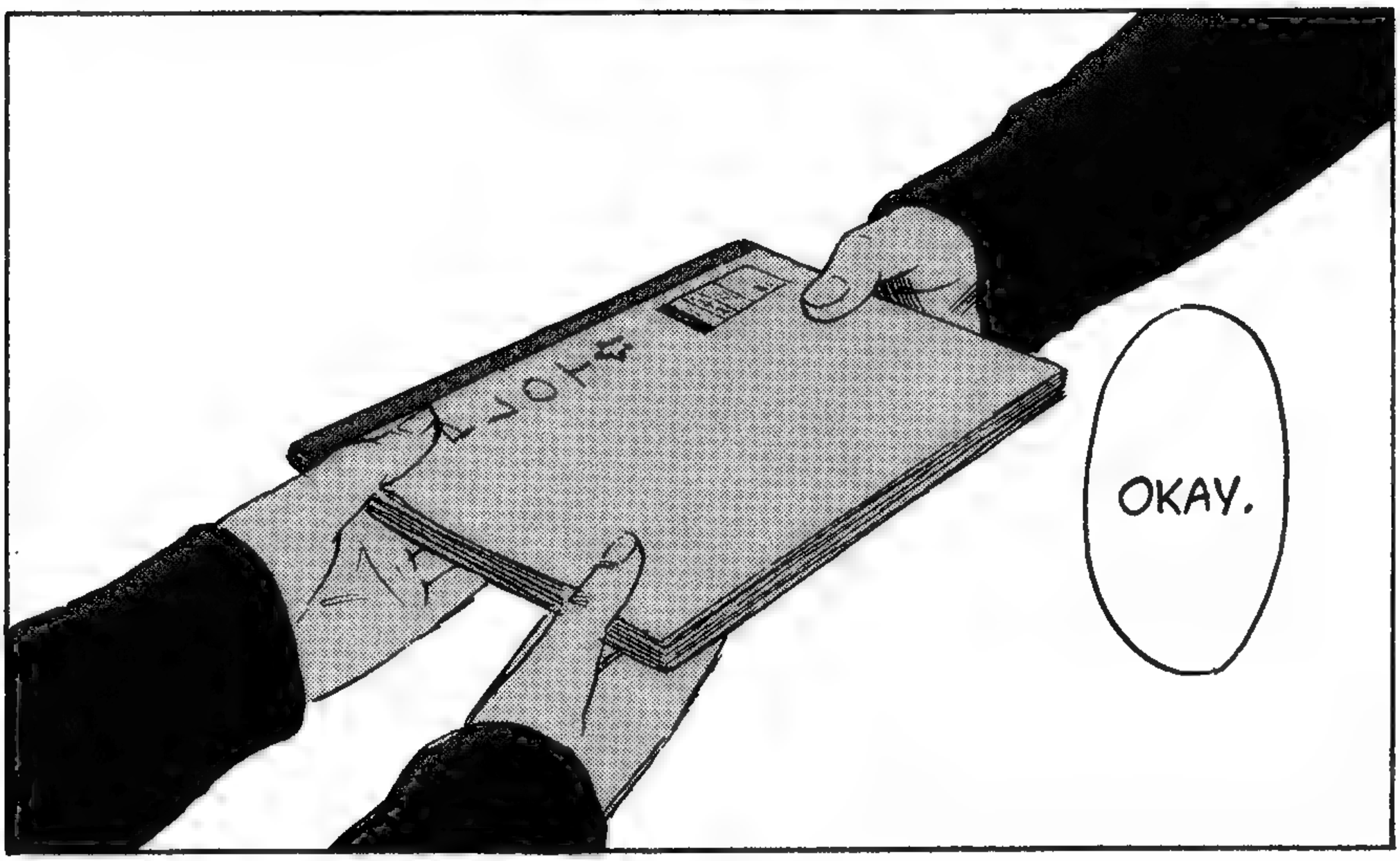
IT'S JUST THE BASIC IDEAS.

SO

ズ SHF !

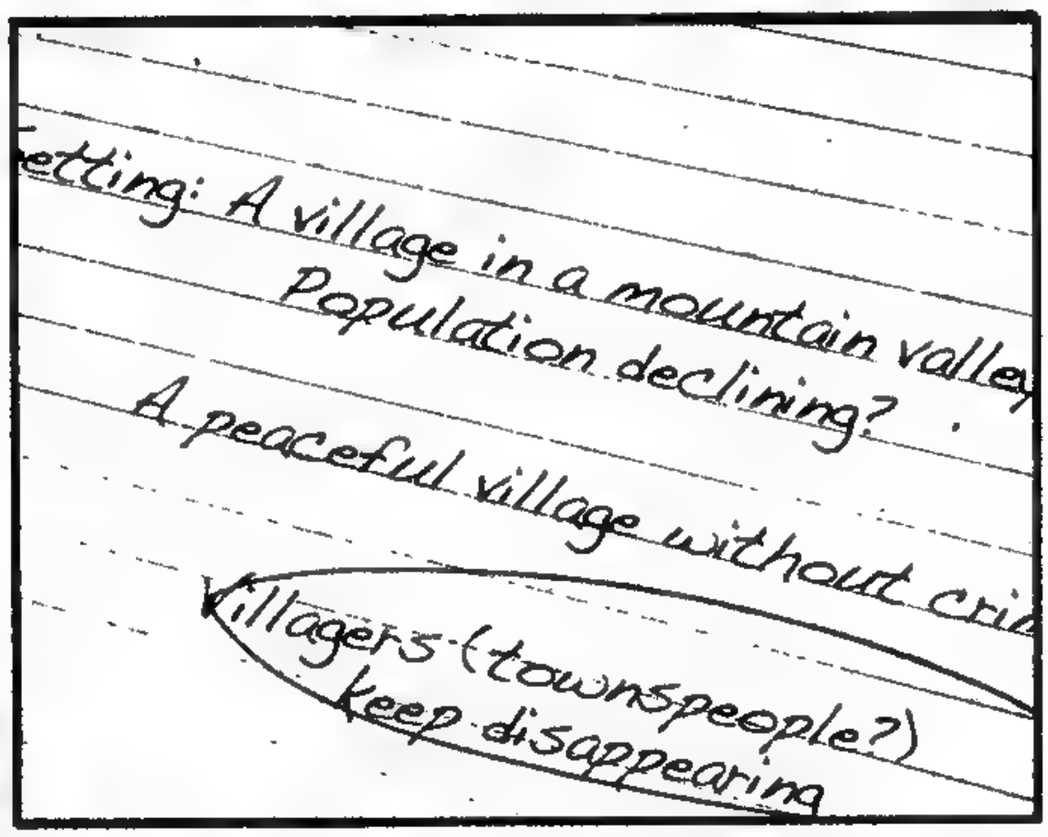

NO.
...

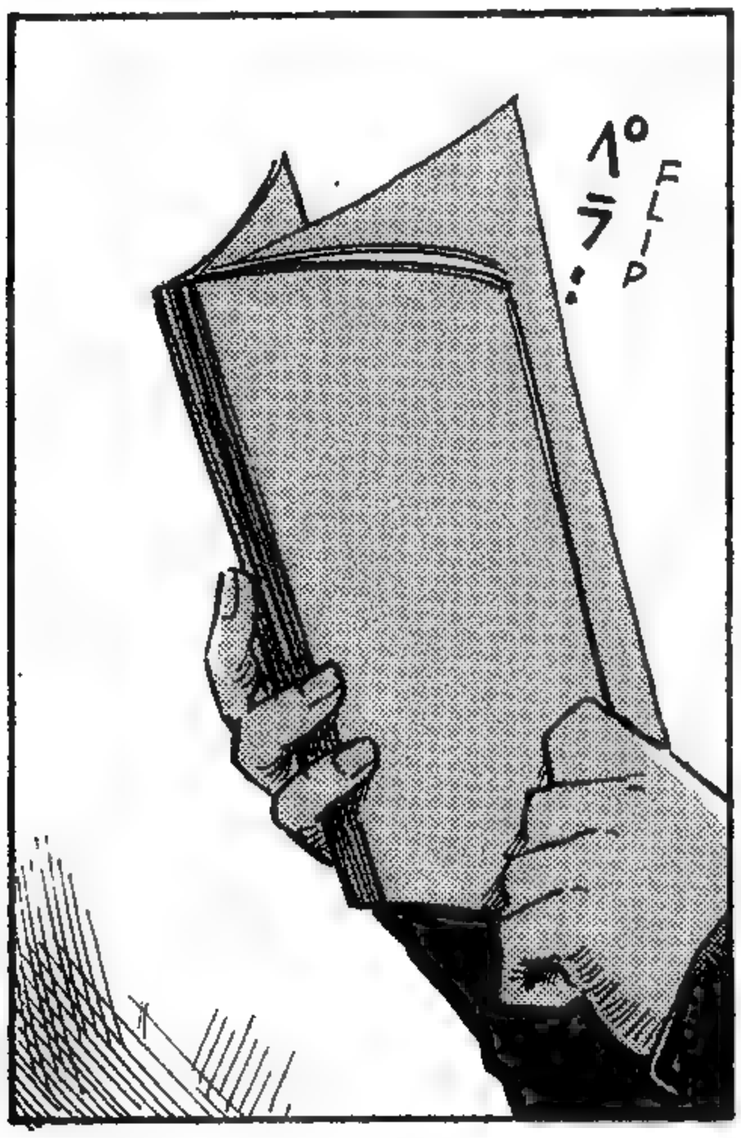

YOUR HONEST OPINION.
JUST GIVE ME

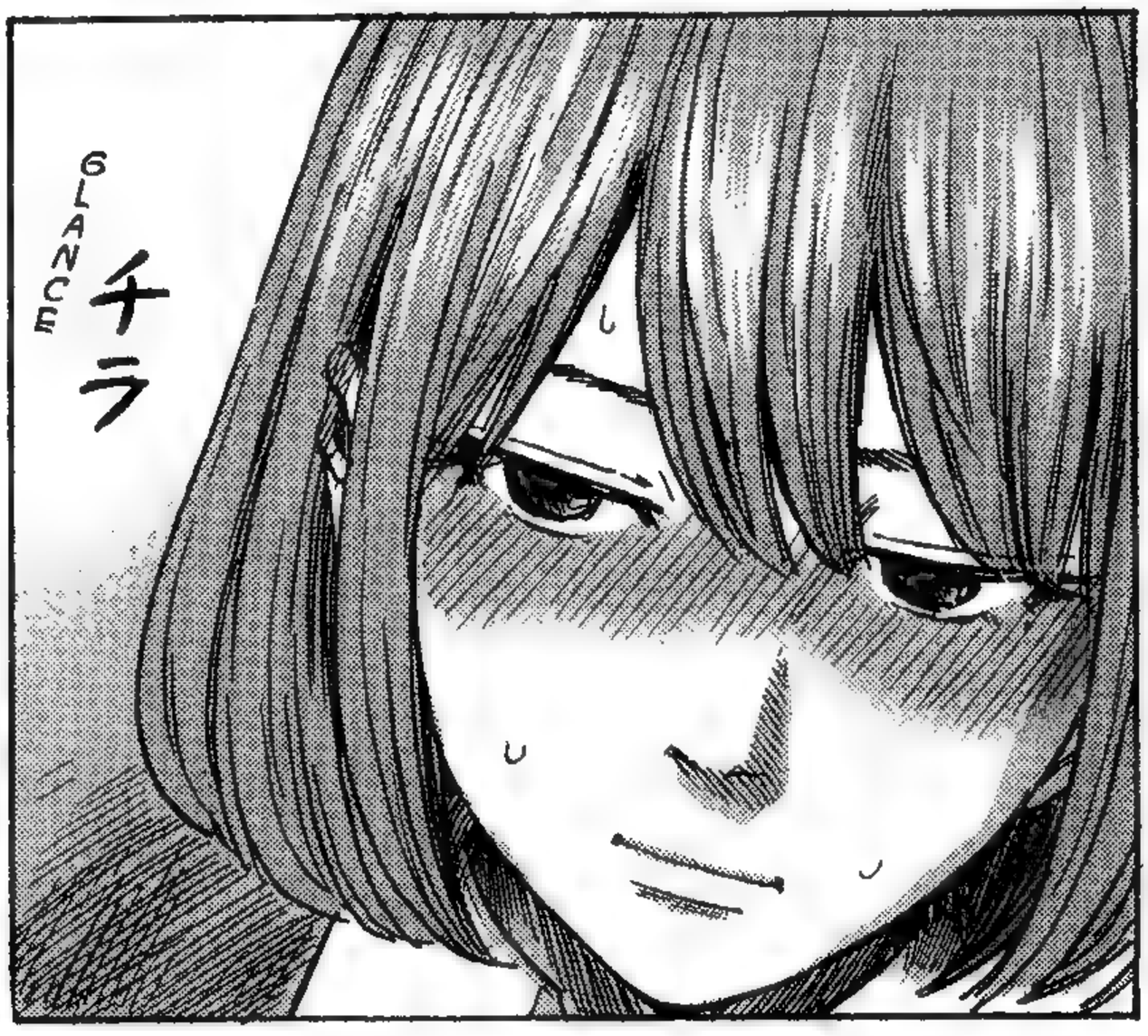

OKAY.

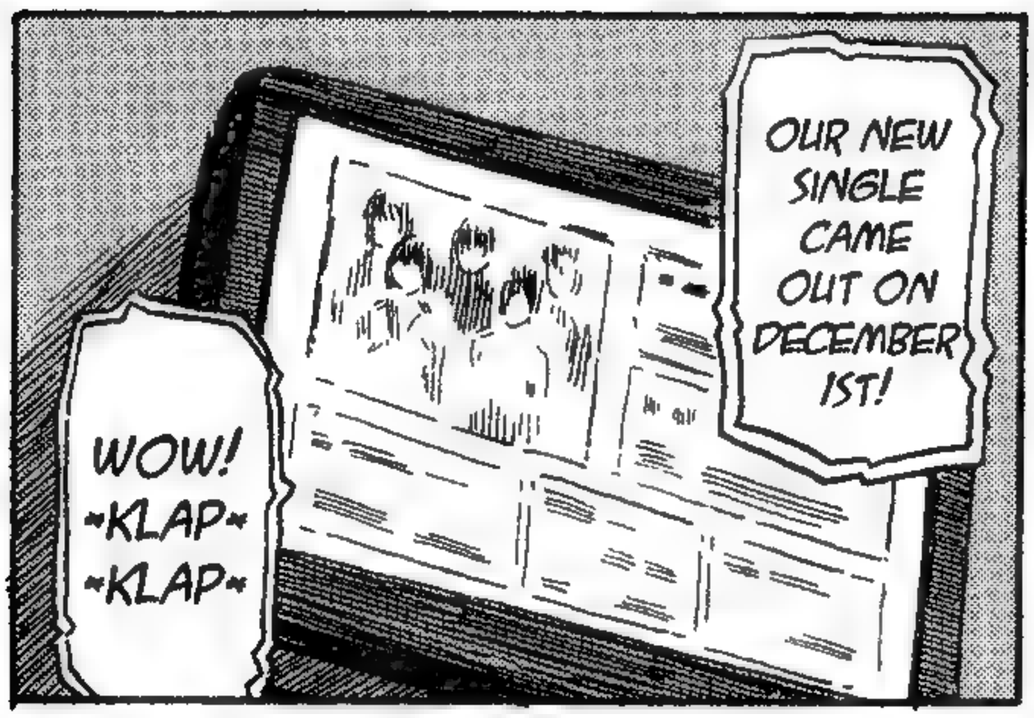
ペラ
Title ideas
Ghost
The Ghost Killings (tentative)
The Ghost's Return
Return

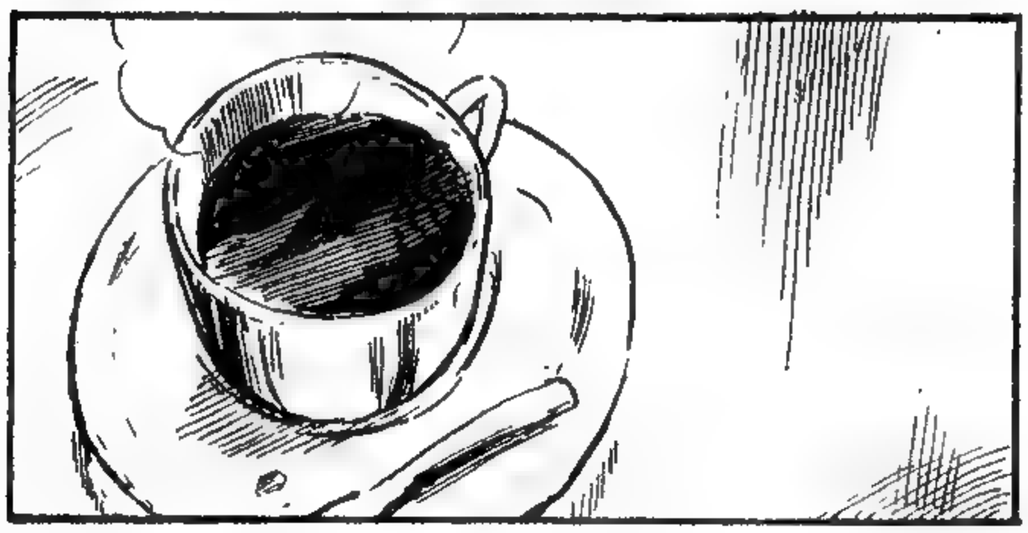
NNG
...
ペラ!
FLIP
46

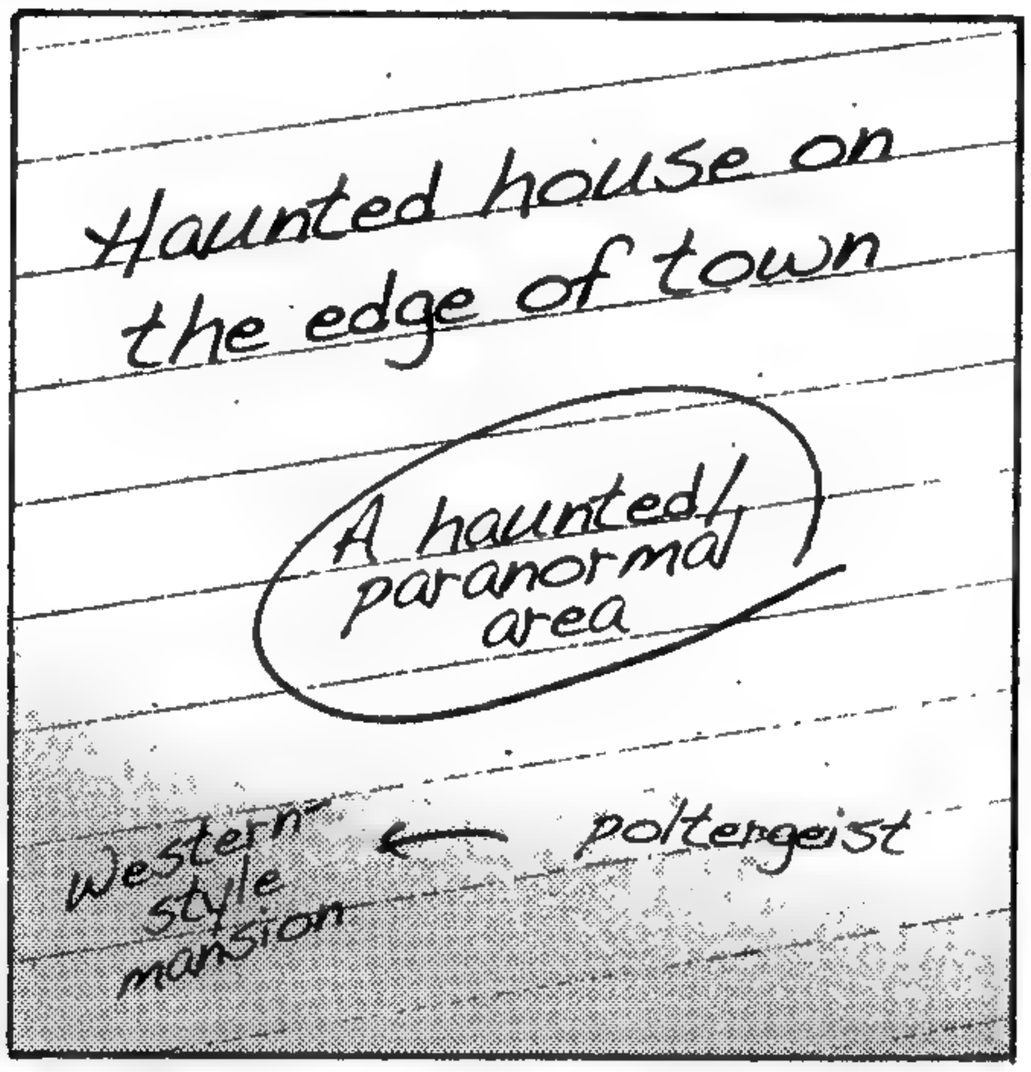

Setting: A village in a mountain valley
Population declining?
A peaceful village without cri
Villagers (townspeople?)
keep disappearing

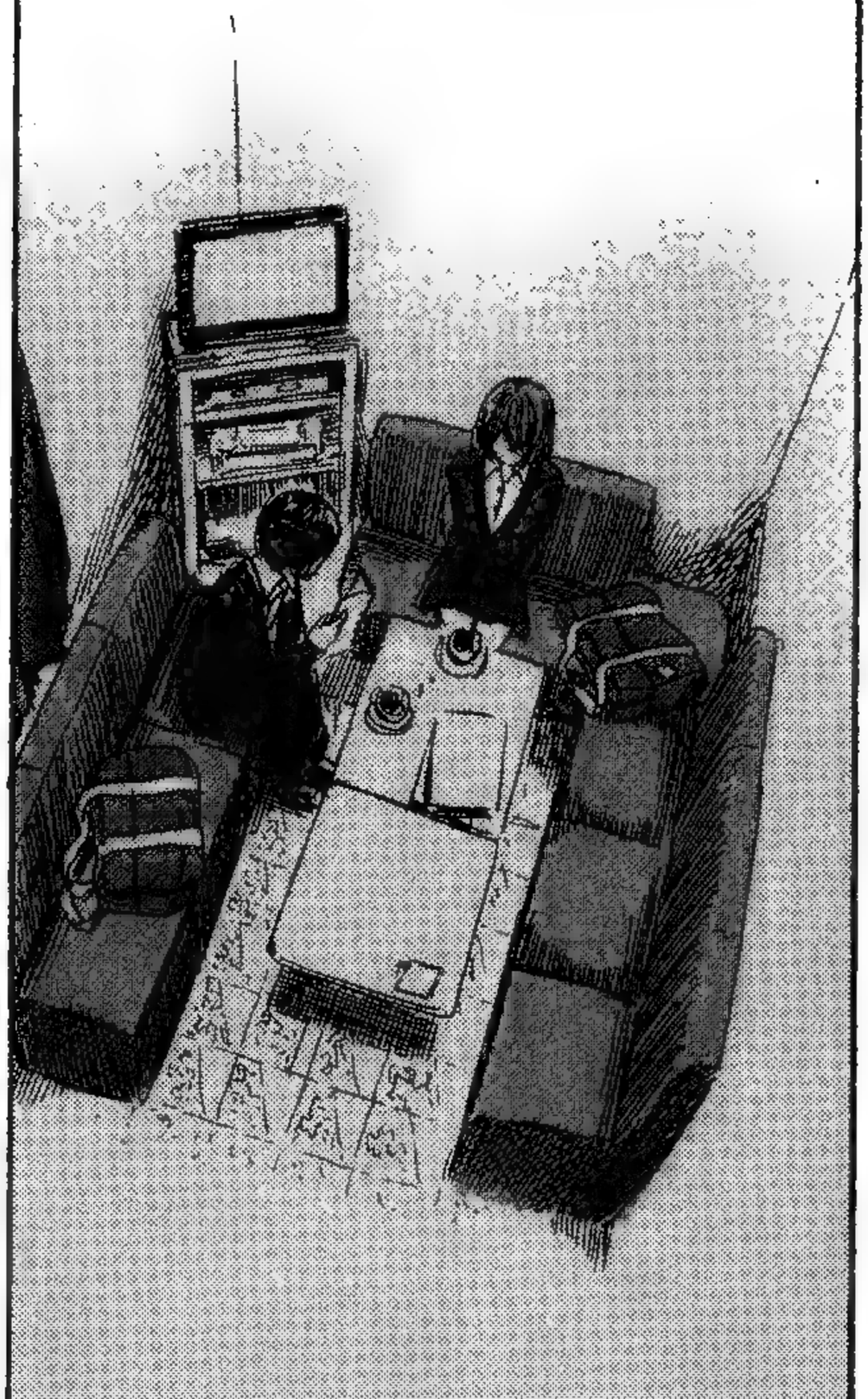

ペラ!
FLIP

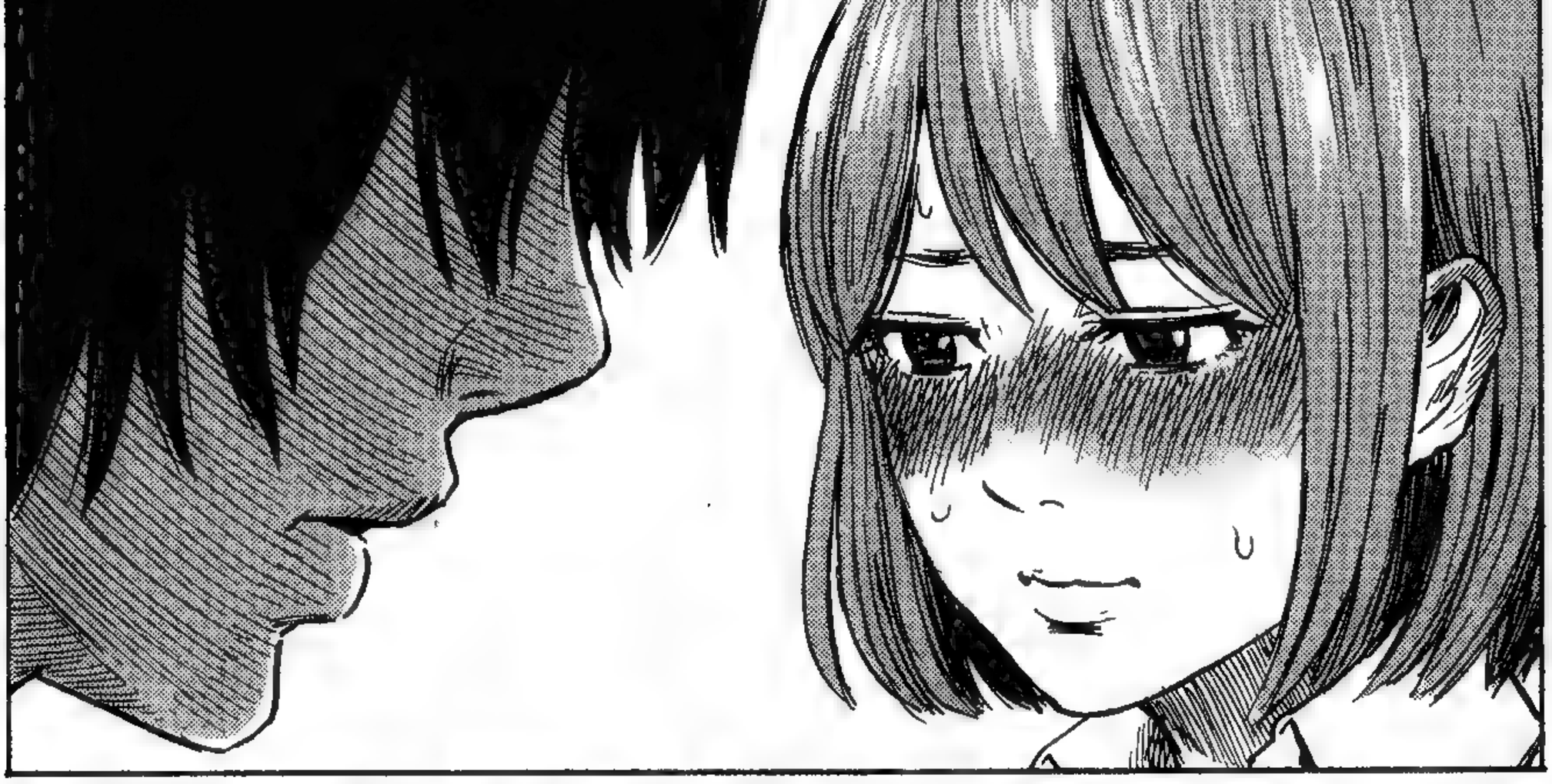

チラ
GLANCE

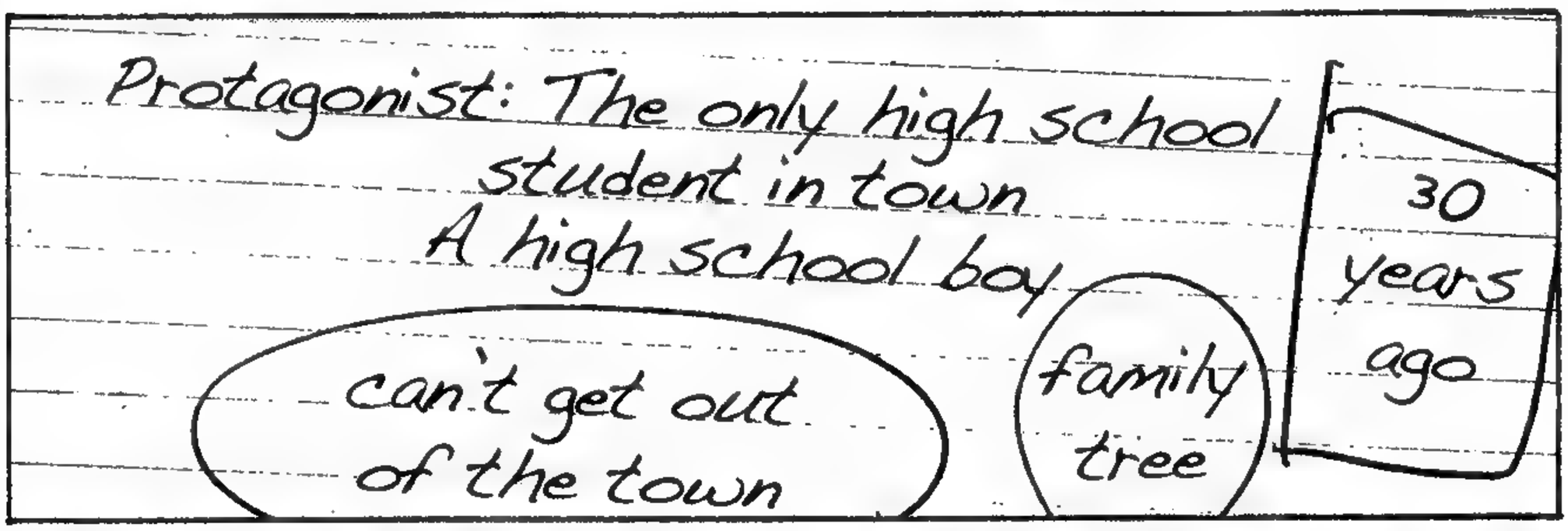

WOW!
~KLAP~
~KLAP~
OUR NEW SINGLE CAME OUT ON DECEMBER 1ST!

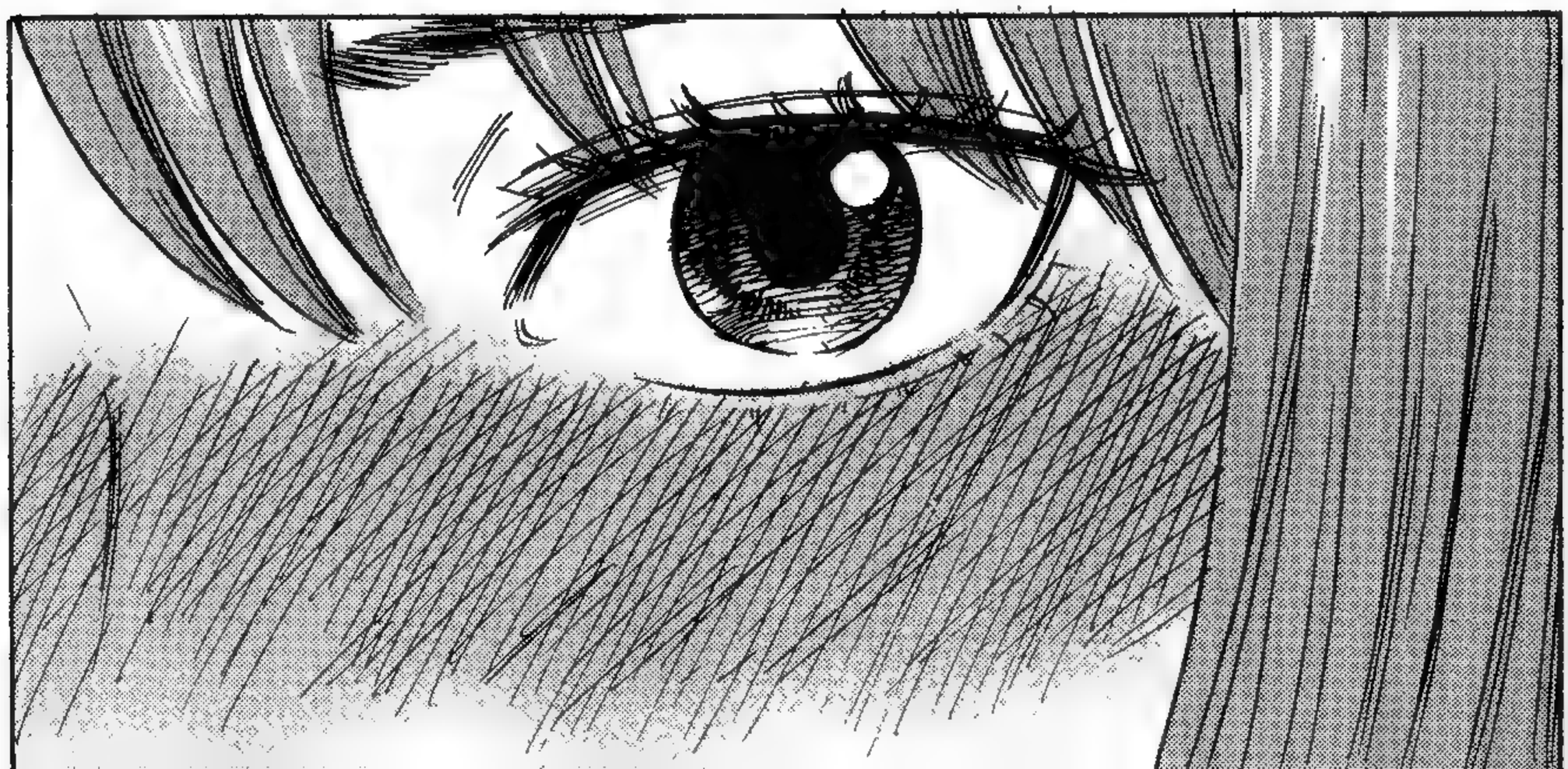


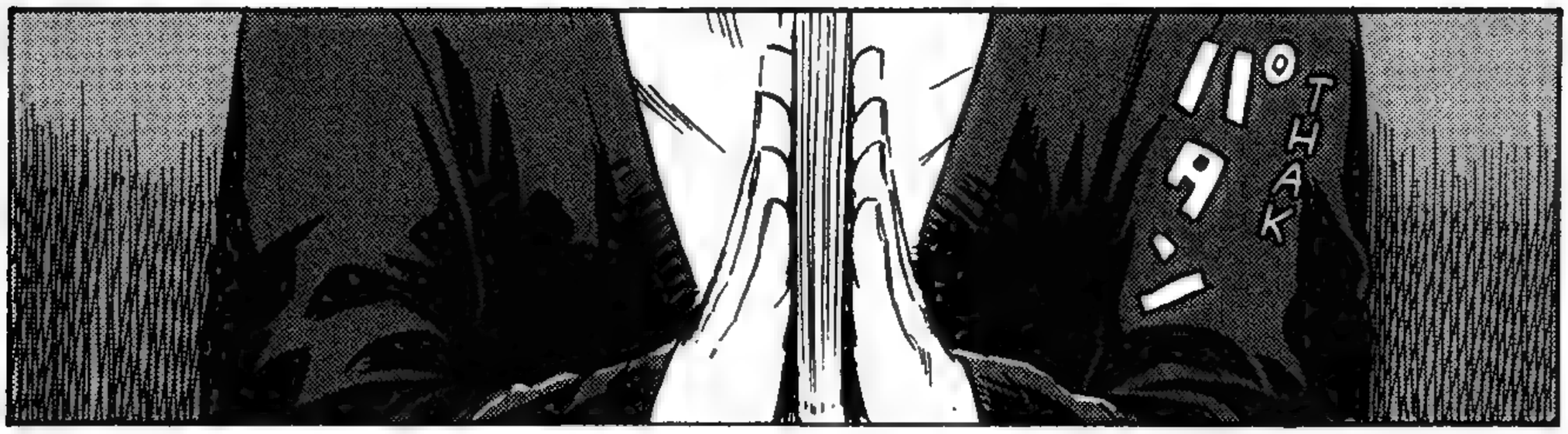

Haunted house on the edge of town
A haunted/ paranormal area
Western style mansion
poltergeist






Protagonist: The only high school student in town
A high school boy
can't get out of the town
family tree
30 years ago




I'M
DONE.
WH-
WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK
?

HA
...

RIGHT... 'COURSE IT ISN'T ANY GOOD!

FORGET IT, JUST FORGET IT!

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO READ THAT.

HUH ?

TOKIWA
...

OH MY GOD ...!

REALLY ...?

...

IS ME!

REALLY. THIS...

THIS PRO-TAGO-NIST...

THAT WHOLE MOOD YOU'VE PUT DOWN HERE...

I KNOW IT!

THIS VILLAGE... SURROUNDED BY MOUN-TAINS...

BEING TRAPPED OUT IN THE STICKS ...

FLIP

FLIP

IS THAT "SOLID" FEEL YOU SAID YOU WANTED IN A NOVEL!

BUT THE REALLY GREAT PART

GIVING FORM TO THE GHOST.

GETS SOLVED LOGICALLY STEP BY STEP,

THAT MAKES YOU THINK A GHOST MIGHT REALLY BE BEHIND IT

A BIZARRE, HORRID CASE

WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

I...

I COULD NEVER

YOU HAVE TO WRITE IT SOON!

THE BEST EVER!

HM?

I...

KASUGA.

Thank you.

I'll try and write it!

C'MON, WE'RE DONE HERE!

RISE

RIGHT NOW!

I'VE GOTTA GO HOME AND START WRITING!

C'MON!

I COULD START OUT AT THE MANSION!

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING WHAT THE OPENING SCENE SHOULD BE!

THEN IN THE NEXT SCENE THE HERO DISCUSSES A RUMOR WITH OTHERS ...

YEAH.

ITS WIN-DOWS GLOW AND THE MISSING PEOPLE ARE STANDING BY THEM!

Yeah !

REALLY ?!

That was close !

YEAH! I THINK THAT'S SUPERB!

WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GO ON ABOUT THIS STUFF TO ANYONE !

AHH.

REALLY ?!

OF COURSE NOT!

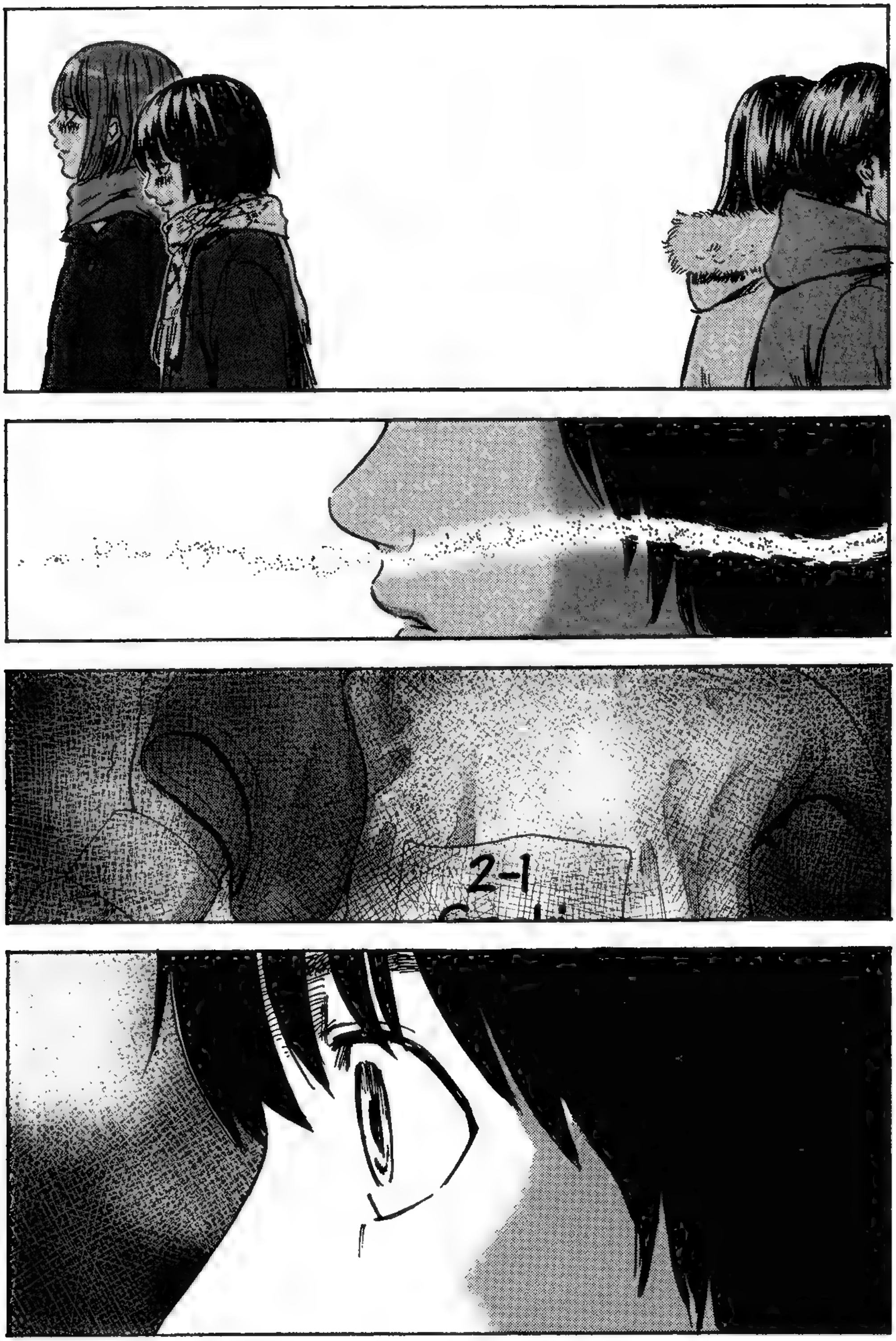
Hey, the concert's done

READING SOME OF IT AT CERTAIN POINTS ?

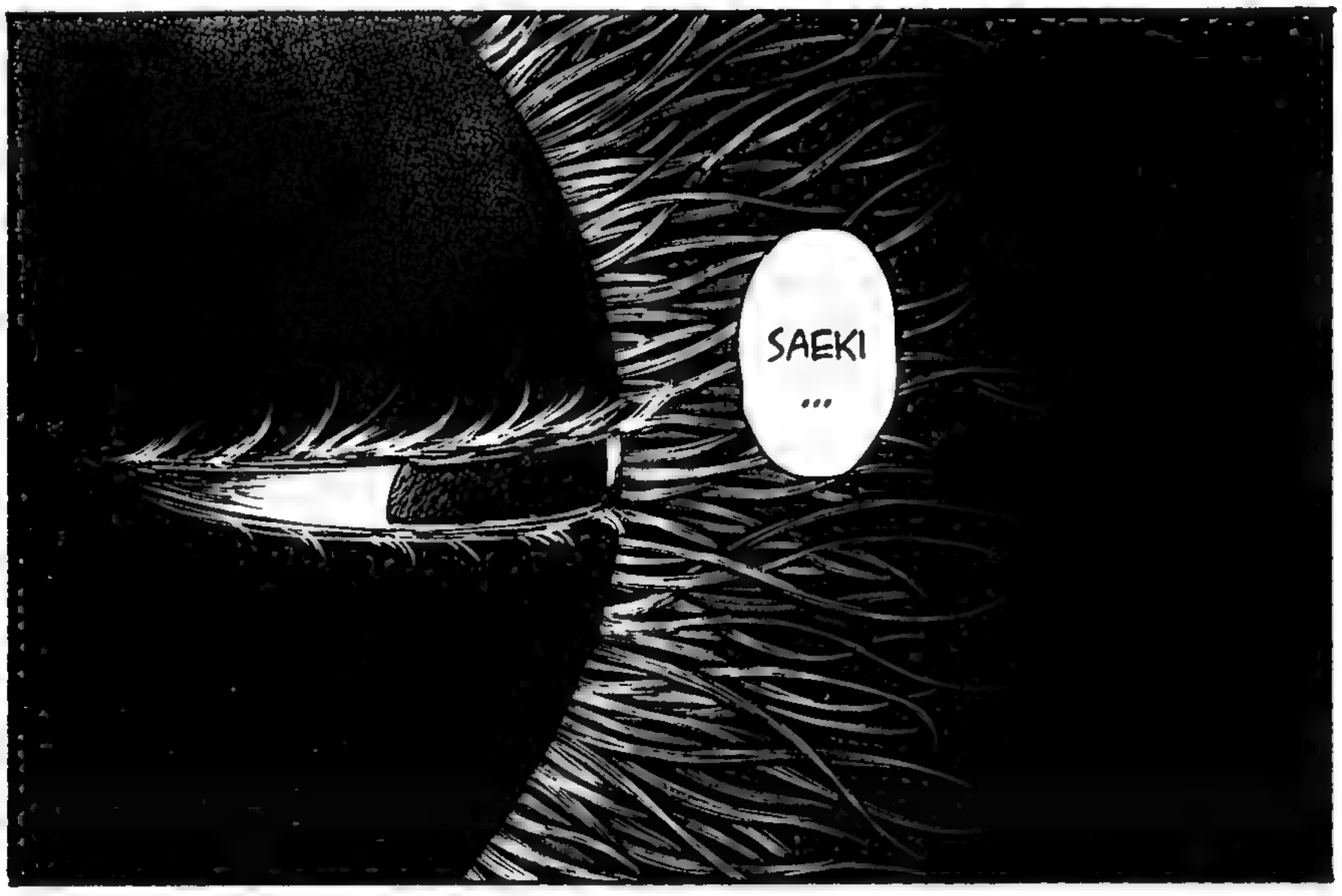
HEY, WOULD YOU MIND

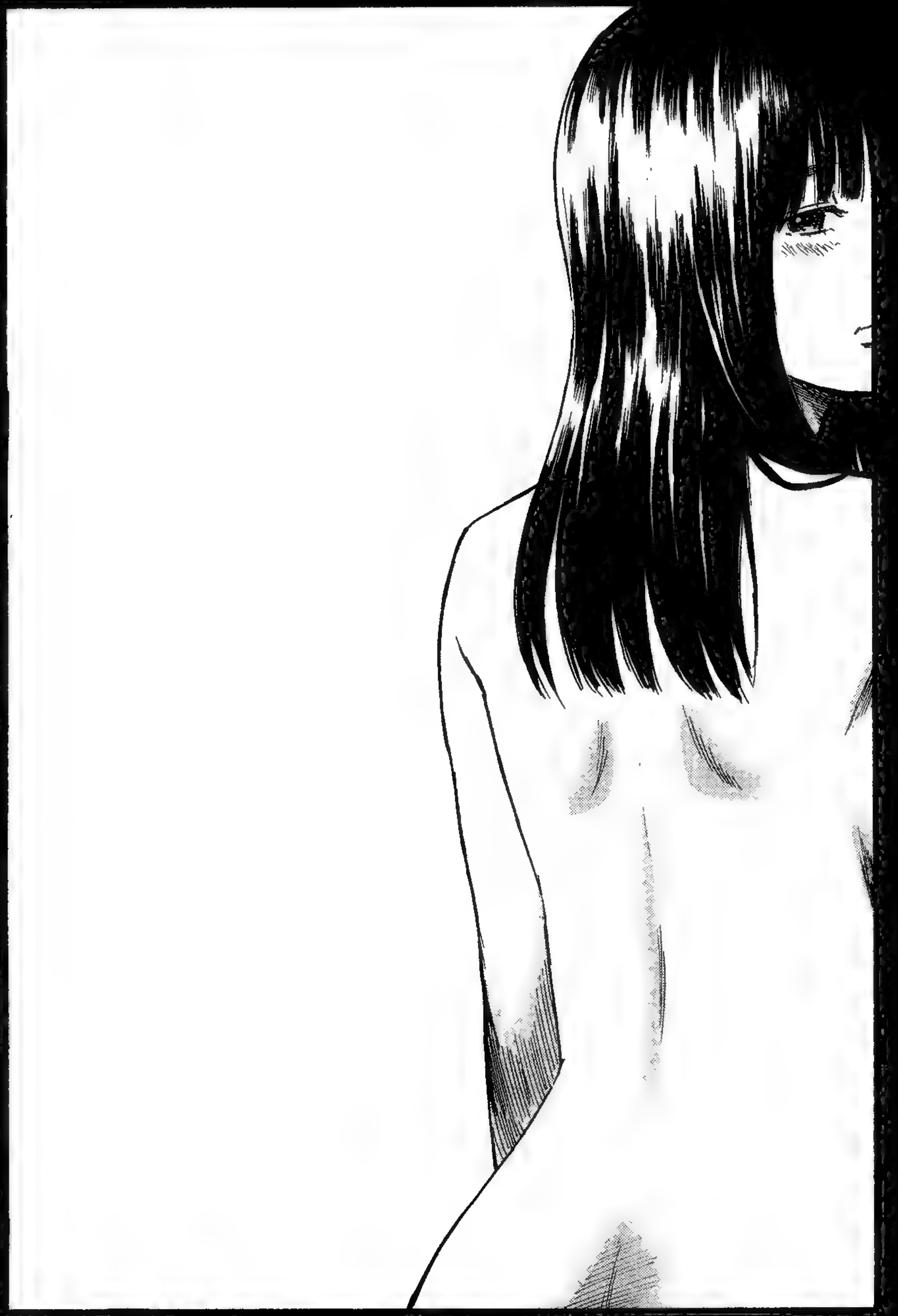
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA PUT ONE IN SOME-WHERE.

I DO LIKE TRICKS IN THE NARRATION, SO...



...
KASUGA
?

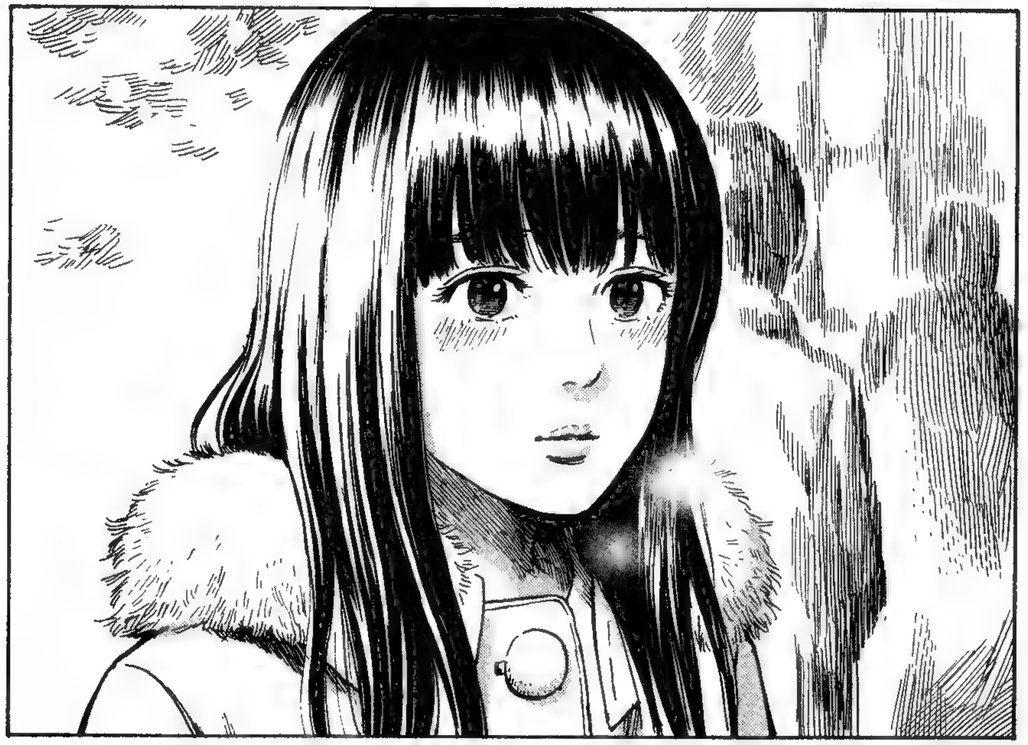

SAEKI
...



Chapter 41: A Scent as Sweet as a Secret

SAEKI
…

123



122

HM?

A FRIEND OF YOURS?

TOK

TOK

TOK

TOK

IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

HOW ARE YOU?

NANAKO, WHO IS HE?

HUH ...

OH, A CLASS-MATE OF MINE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IT'S CRAZY RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER HERE, ISN'T IT?

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN, THREE?

SO WHERE DO YOU LIVE THESE DAYS, KASUGA?

UH... M...

YEAH ...

WOW.

I LIVE AROUND HERE.

UH, OMIYA.

I'M IN UTSUNOMIYA NOW.

UM

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAEKI ?

YEAH...

MY BOYFRIEND AND I WERE AT A CONCERT TODAY. RIGHT ?

HELLO.

HI.

OH THIS IS KOIZUMI.

HUH ?

YOUR GIRL-FRIEND ?

AND SHE IS?

OH.

WHOSE CONCERT WAS IT?

I'M JUST A FRIEND FROM THE SAME SCHOOL.

MY NAME IS TOKIWA.

NO, NO!

ME?

CLAMOR

UH, YEAH!

IT WAS AMAZING! RIGHT, KOIZUMI?

WAS IT GOOD?

WOW!

AH... IT WAS YUKI.

HEH...

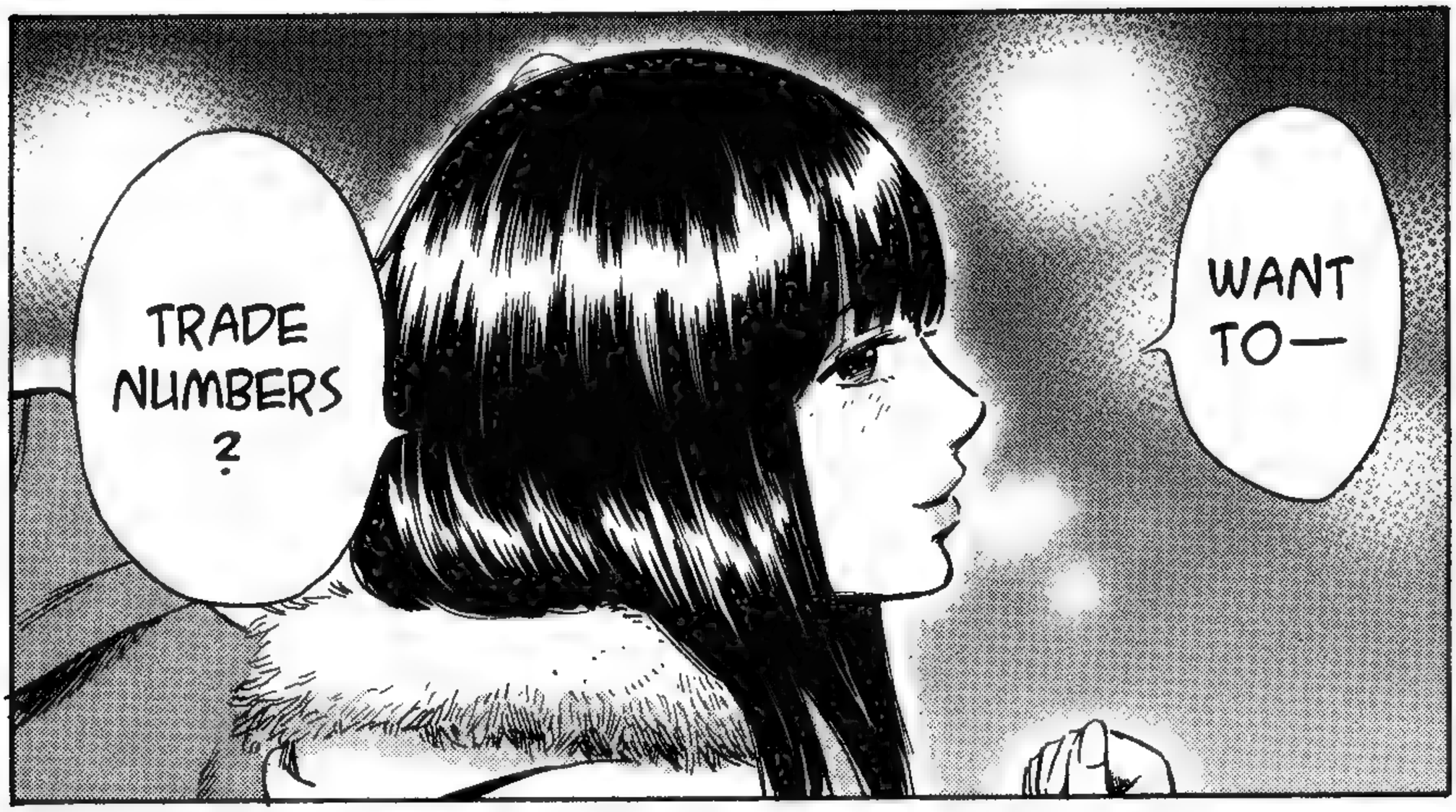
KASUGA.

YOUR HAIR'S LONGER,

I'M HAPPY WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER.

BYE THEN.

OH.


TRADE NUMBERS ?
WANT TO—

SURE...

HUH?

...
YUP, GOT IT.

OKAY, I'VE SENT IT.

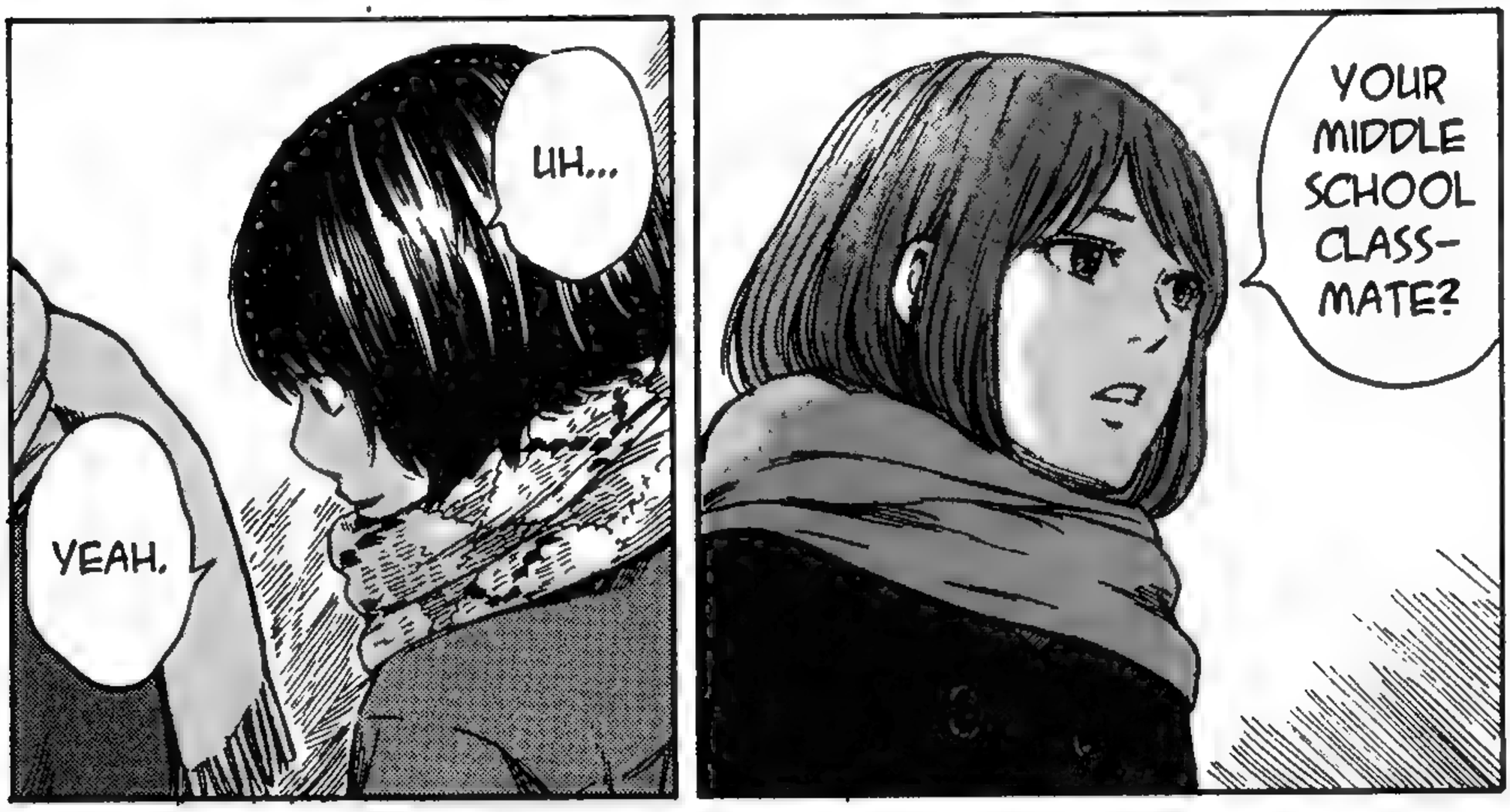
THANKS.

WELL.

BYE FOR NOW.

OKAY ...

CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR


UH...
YEAH.
YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS-MATE?

I DUNNO.

WAS SHE POP-ULAR?

SHE'S PRETTY.

HER BOY-FRIEND —

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A LITTLE LIKE YOU?

HE'S NOTHING LIKE ME.

NO ...

OW!

SMAK

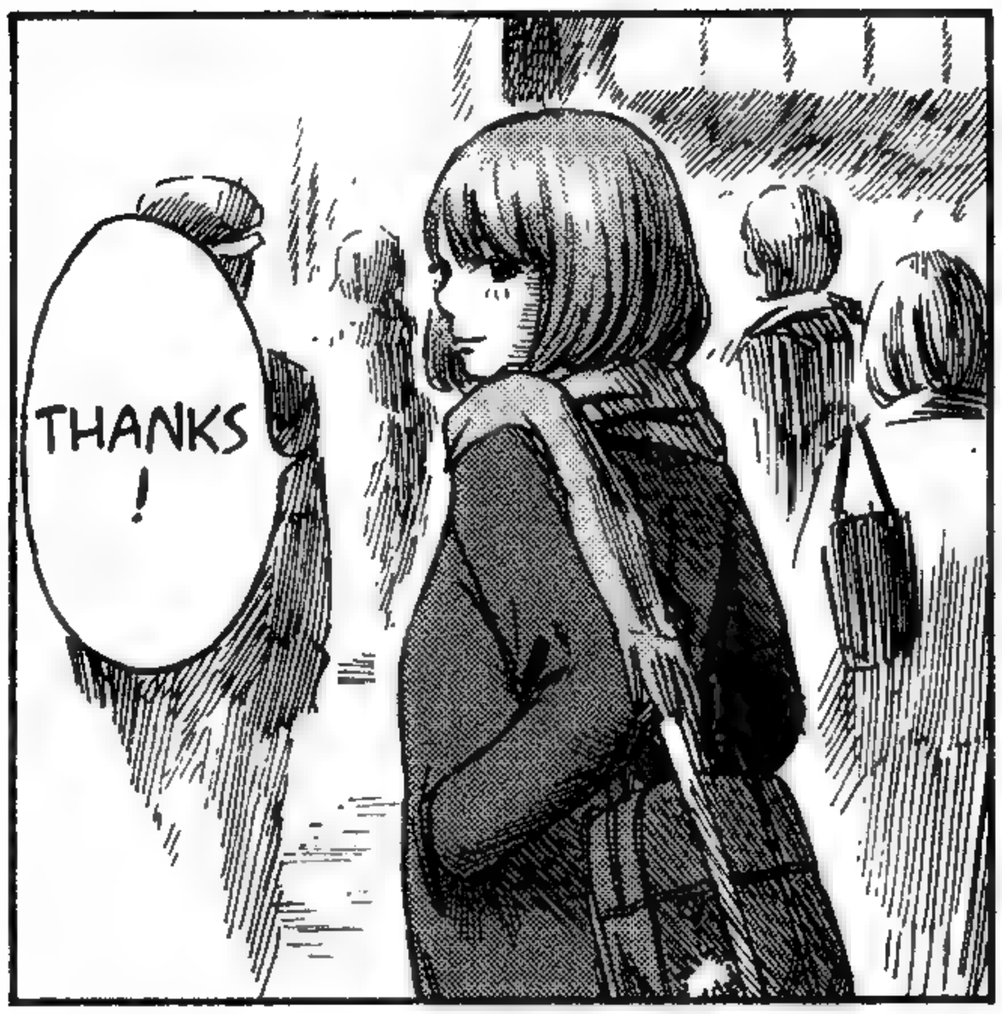
C'MON NOW!

YOU'RE BUMMING ME OUT!

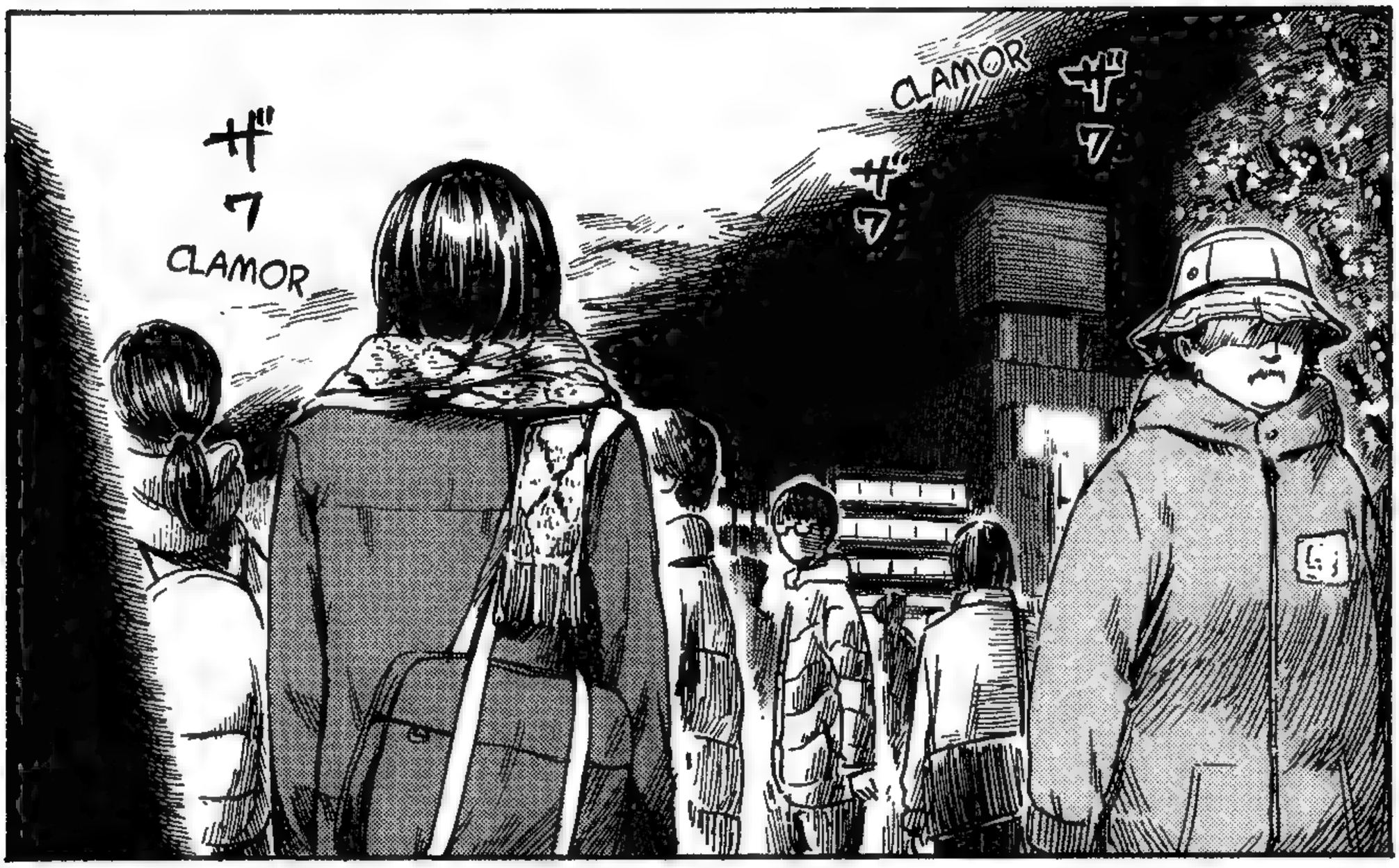
I'M GOING HOME ON MY BIKE, SO... SEE YA!

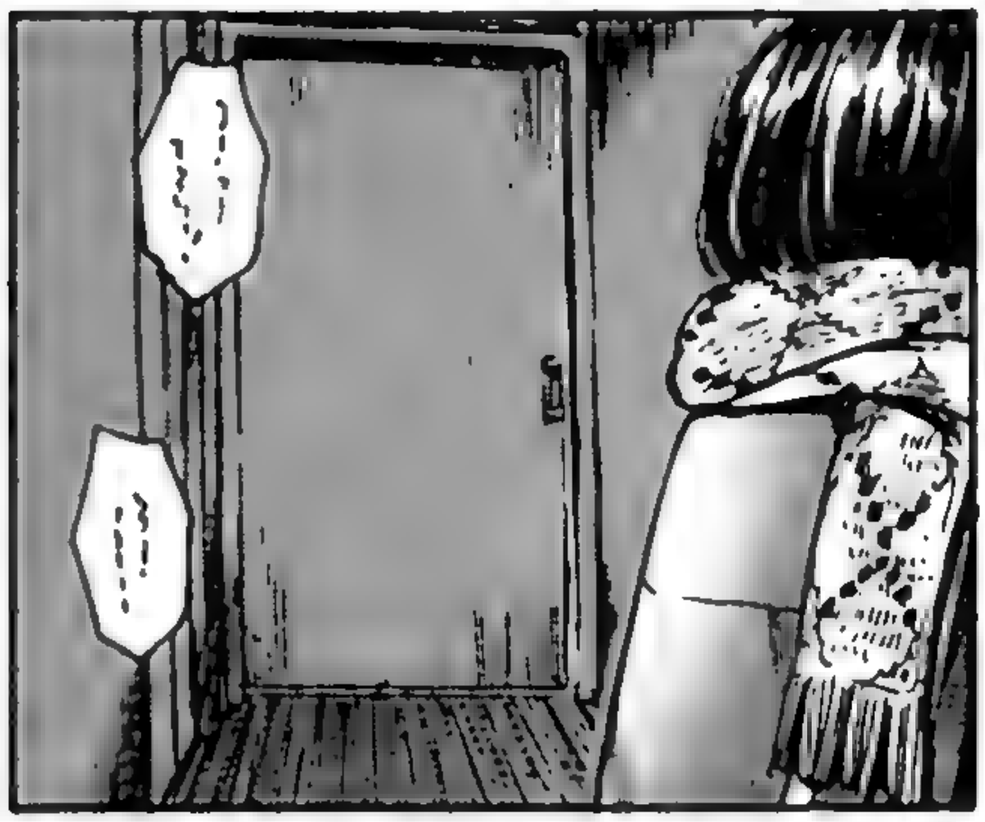
YOU'RE TAKING THE BUS, RIGHT?

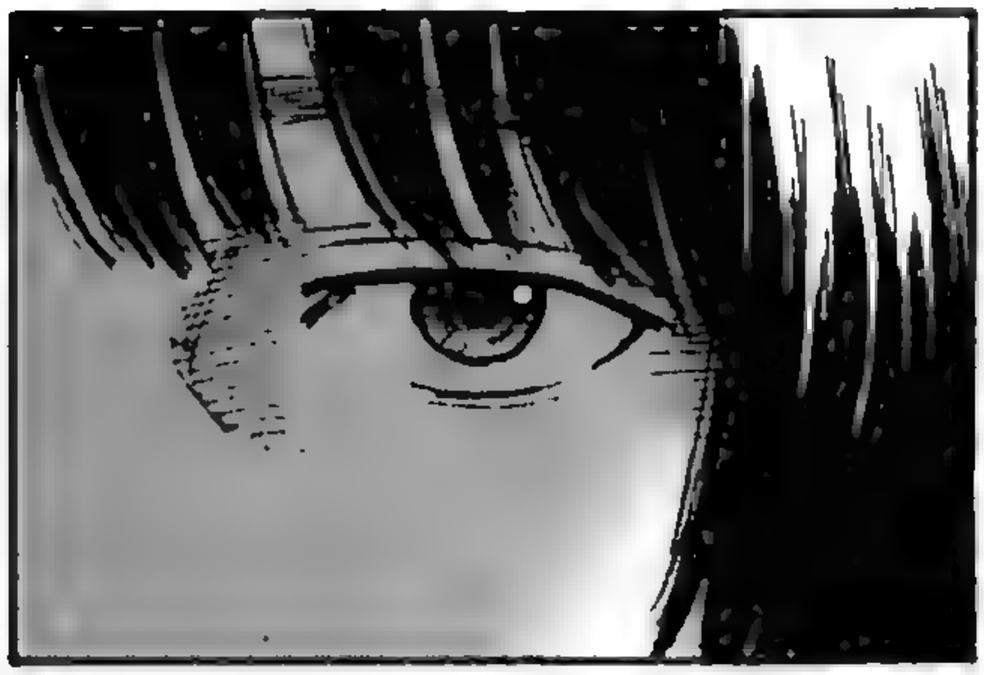
...


THANKS!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WRITING.
OH, TOKIWA!


CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR





...LIT UP! ...SICK OF... UGH!

...EVER! NKK

...'RE ALWAYS LIKE... AGAIN !

...HATE IT! I JUST—

YOU'RE HOME ?!

WHAT ?!

ガラ

GOD... WHERE WERE YOU CAN'T WAN- YOU DERING AT AROUND LEAST ? CALL ?

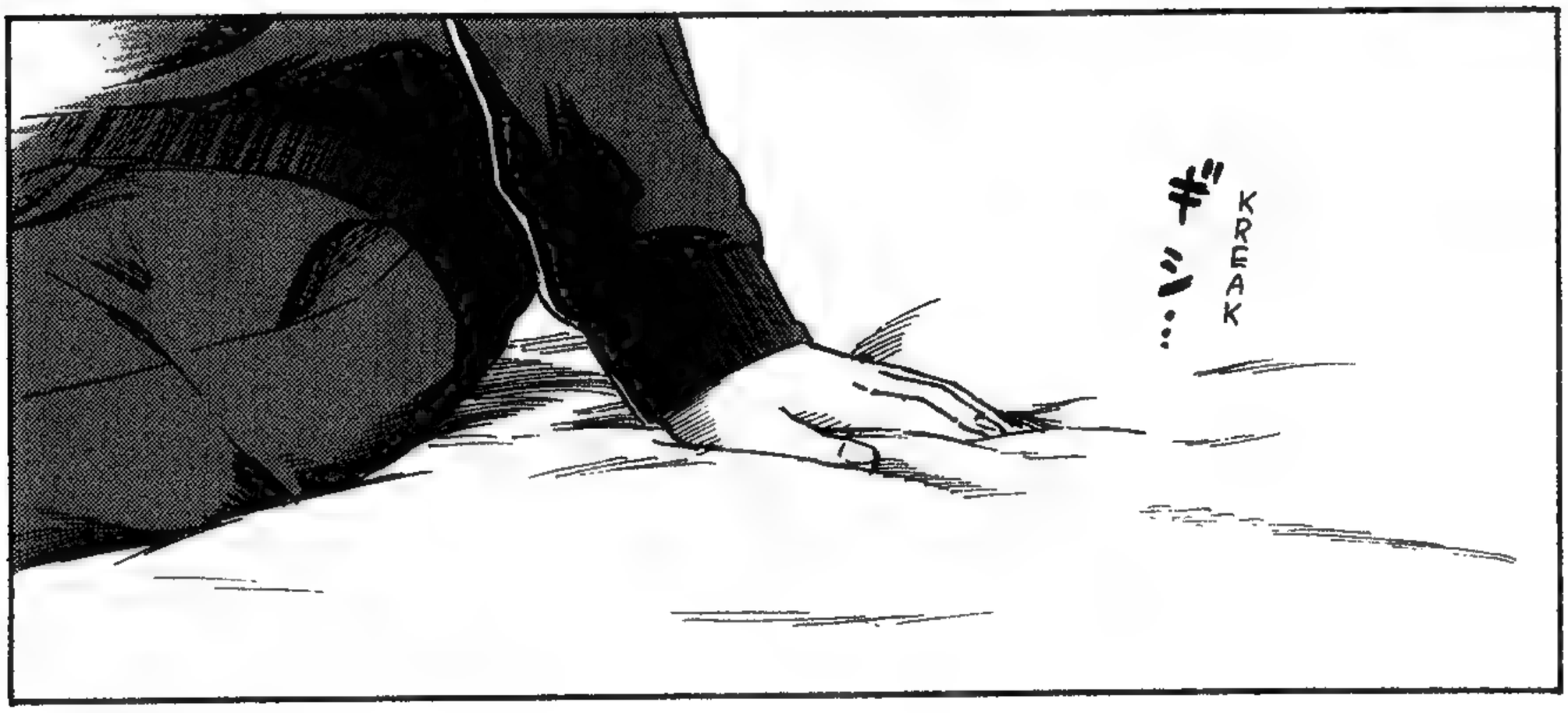
DO YOU NEED DINNER ?!

STOMP どた

STOMP

HUH ?!
NO.
I SAID NO!

どな
どな
どな
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP


ギシ…
KREAK

WHEW
...

ぎし
KREAK

ビュー
WHOOOO

FLIP

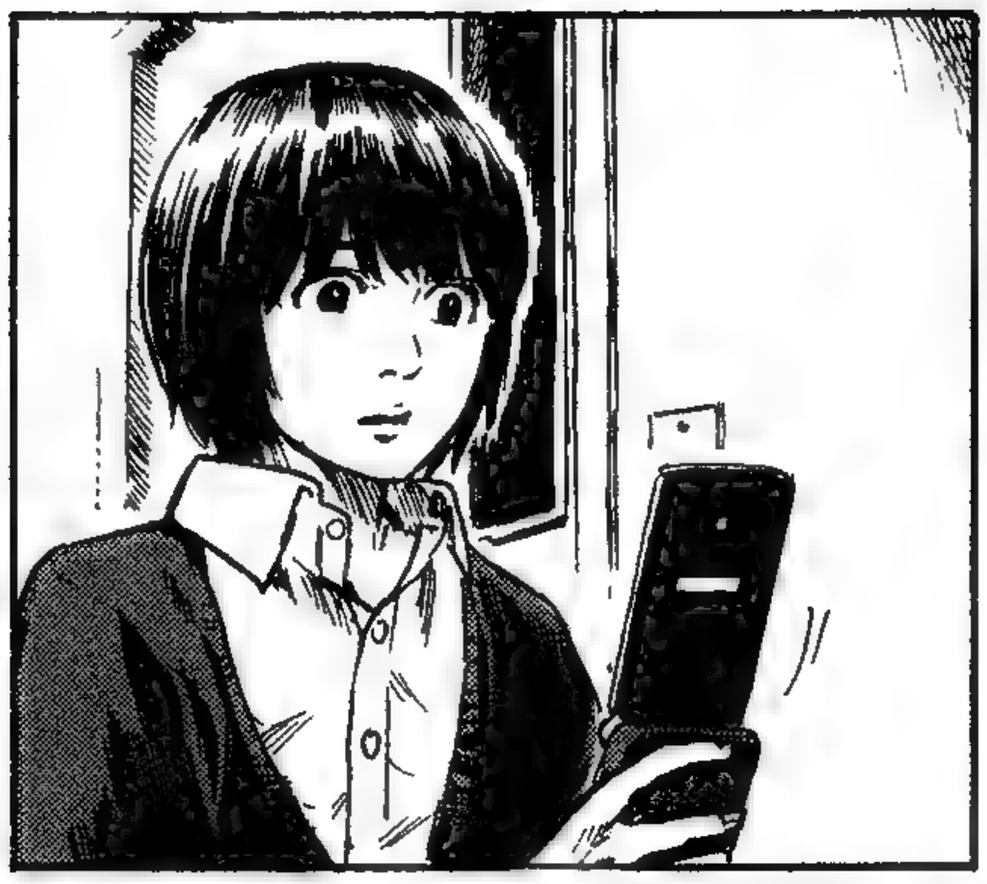
ハラハラ

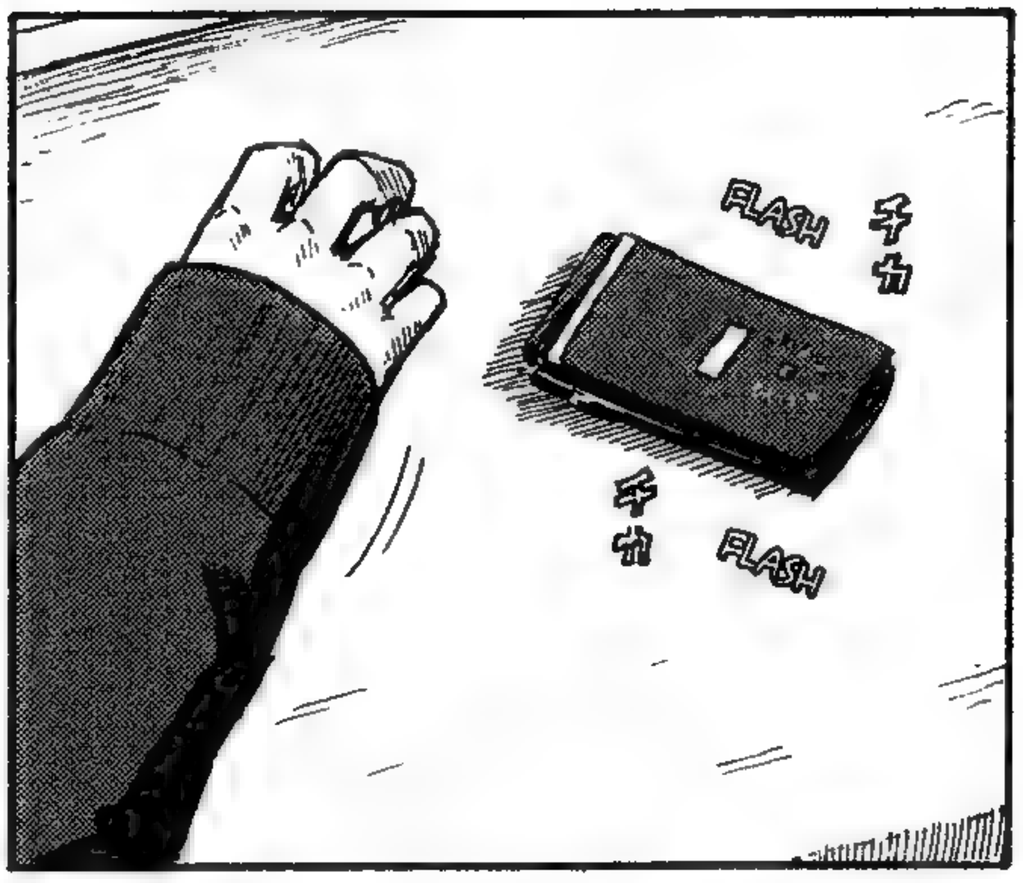
ハラハラ

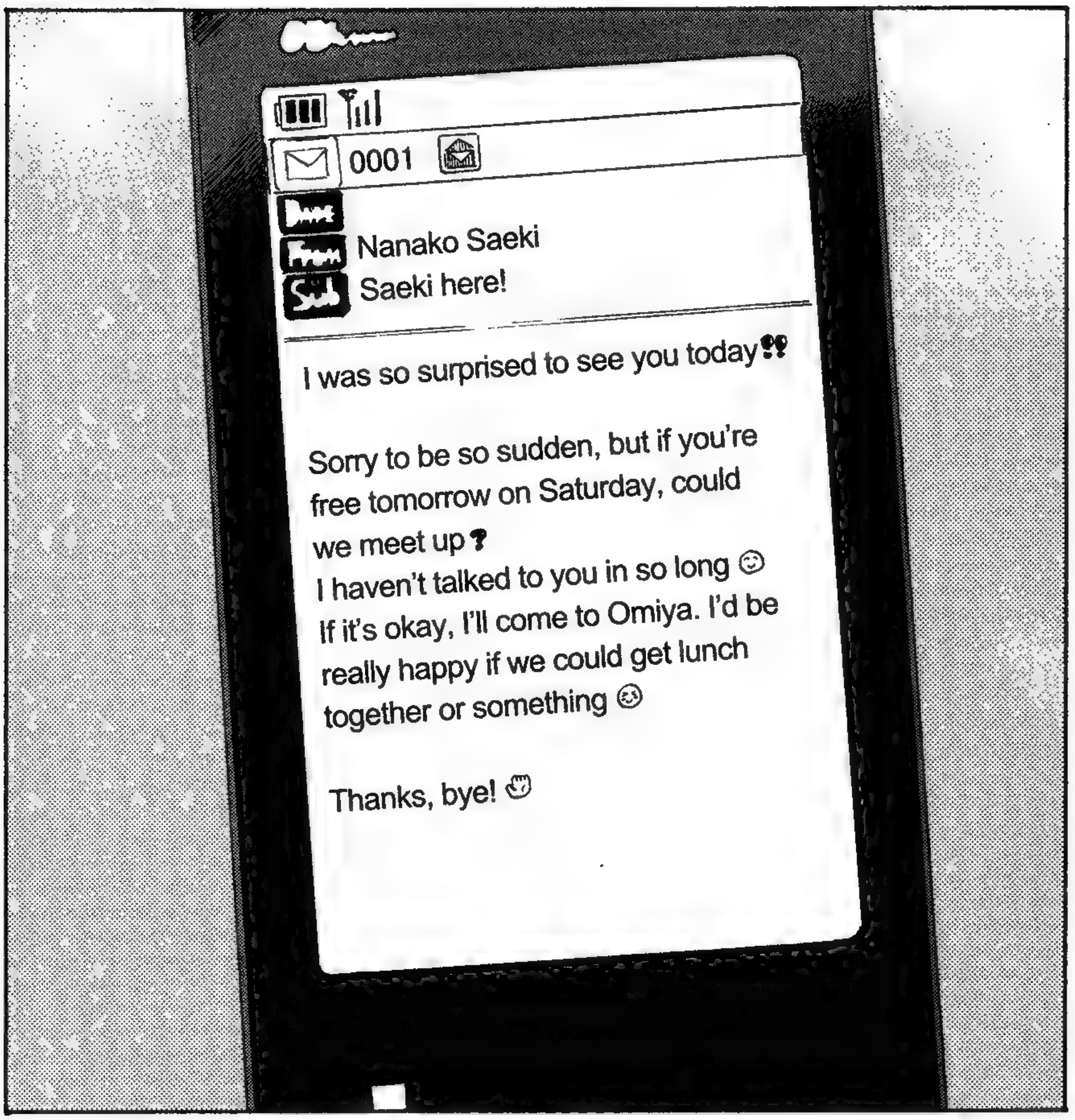
ハラハラ

ハラハラ

BEEP ITV♪ BEEP



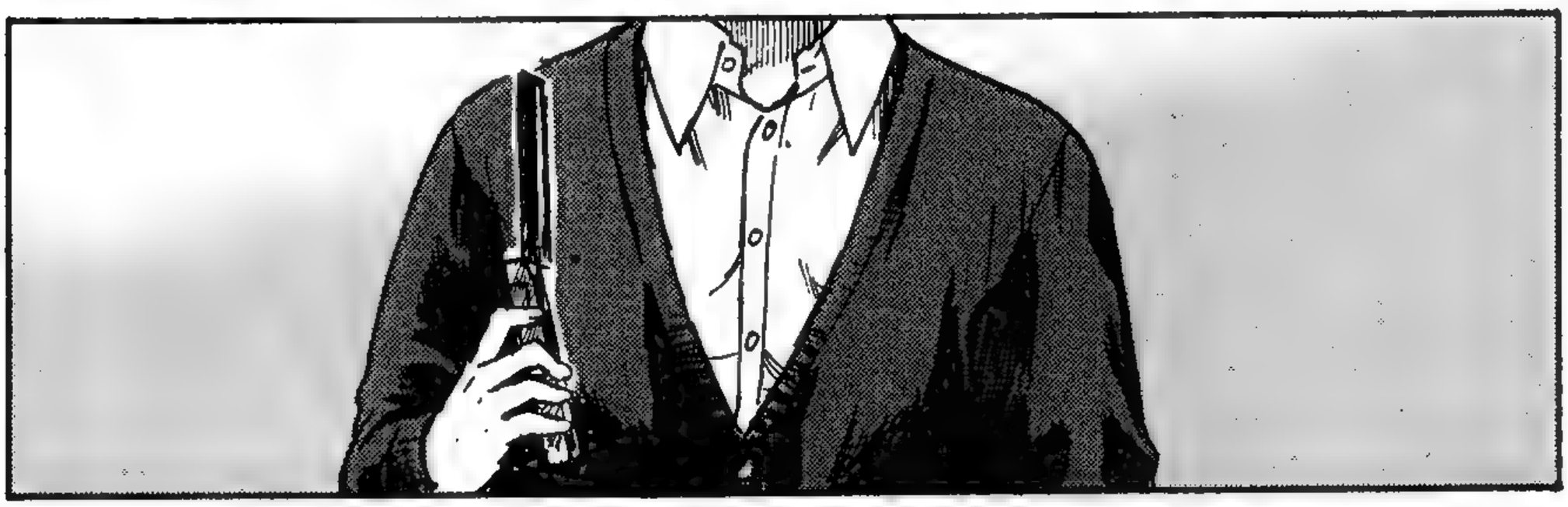

FLASH
千加
千加
FLASH

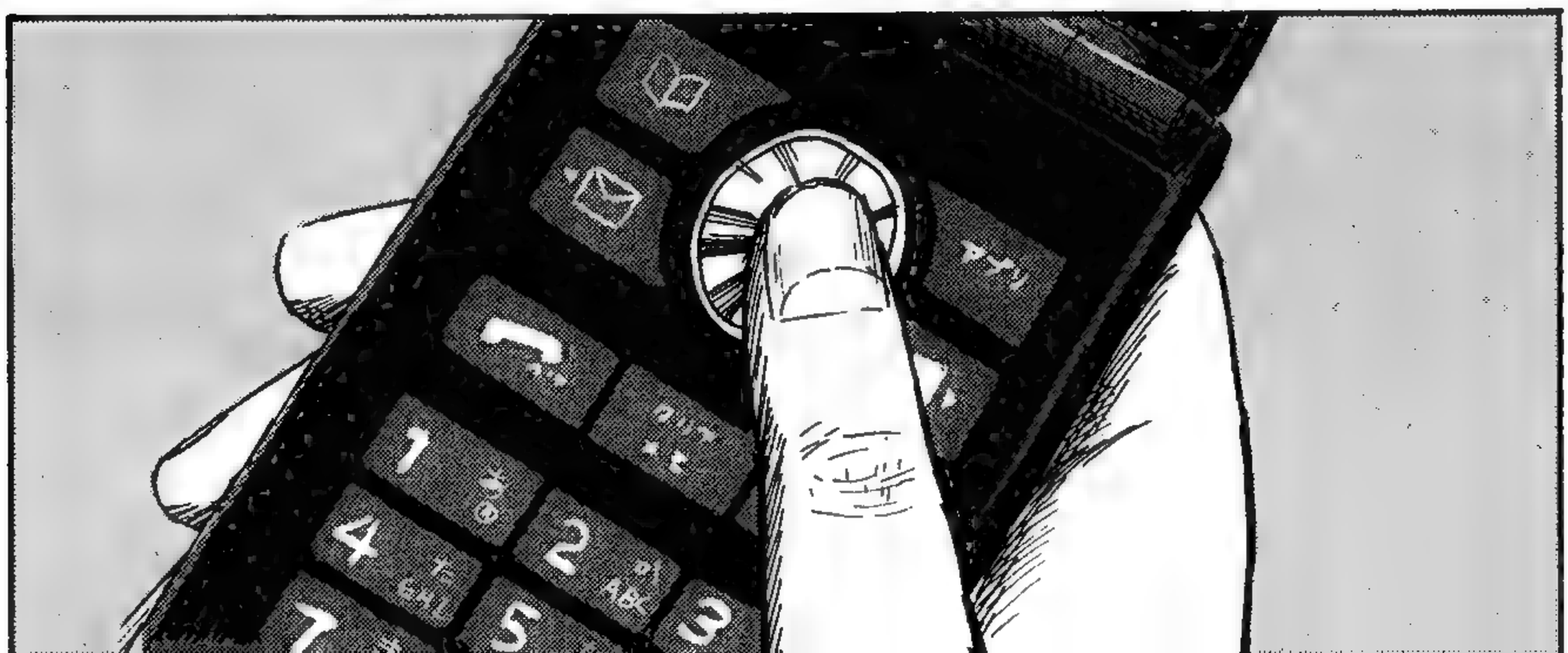

0001
Nanako Saeki
Saeki here!
I was so surprised to see you today👣
Sorry to be so sudden, but if you're free tomorrow on Saturday, could we meet up❓
I haven't talked to you in so long ☺
If it's okay, I'll come to Omiya. I'd be really happy if we could get lunch together or something 🥺
Thanks, bye! ✊

UH
...

HUFF
...
HF

WHIP





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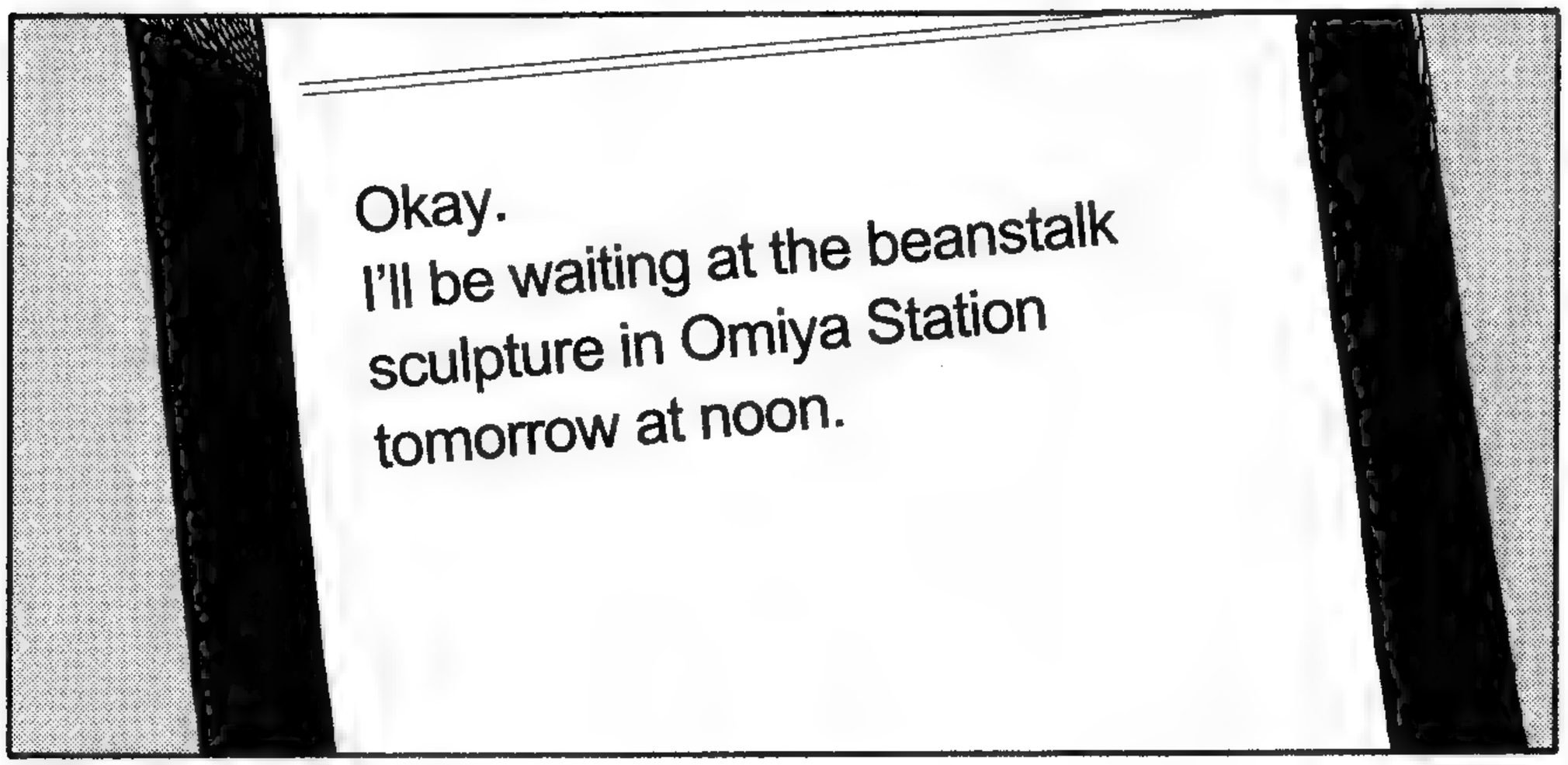
カチカチ


Okay.
I'll be waiting at the beanstalk
sculpture in Omiya Station
tomorrow at noon.

CLAMOR

CLAMOR

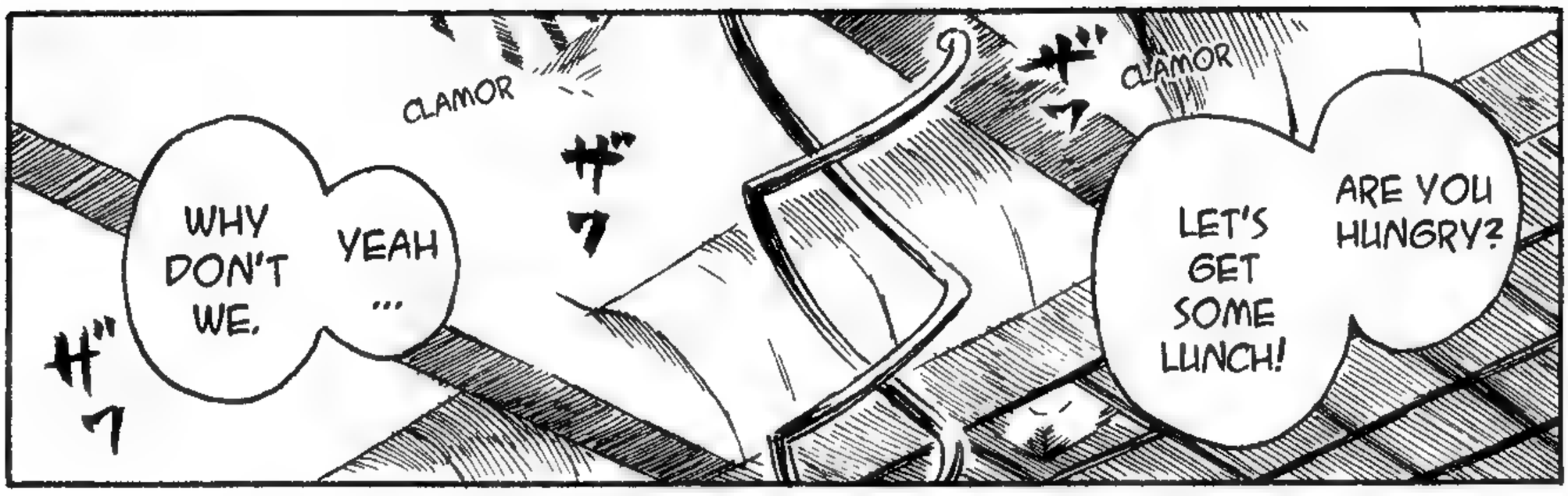
CLAMOR

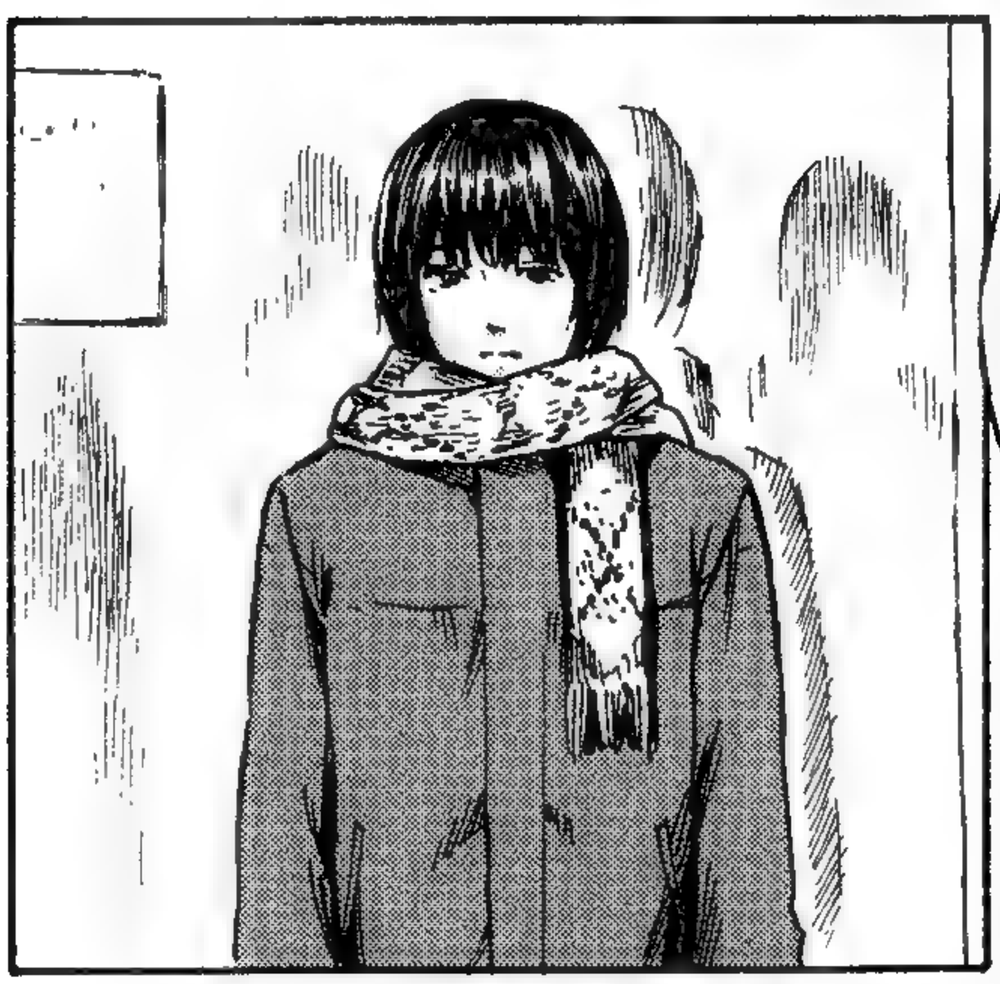
CLAMOR

KASUGA !

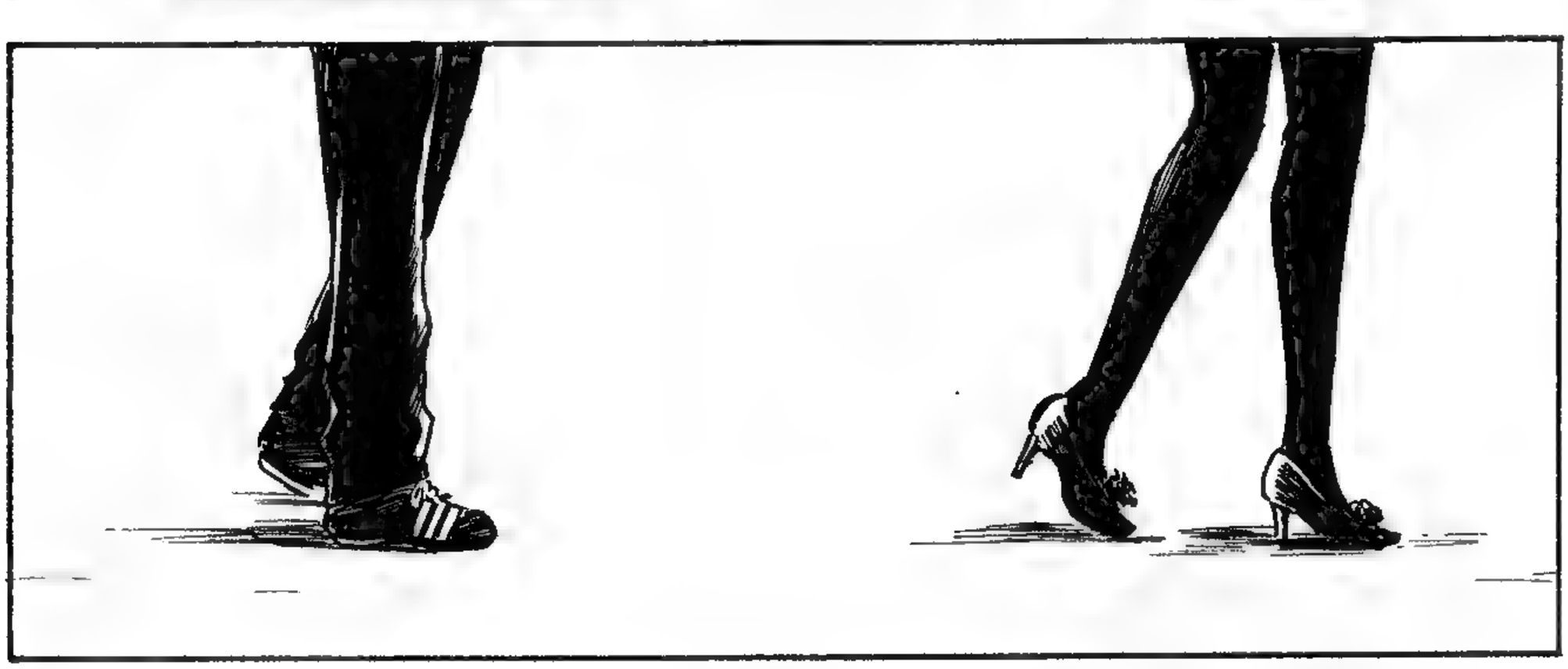
CLAMOR

HERE I AM !
SURE ...
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.


CLAMOR
CLAMOR
WHY DON'T WE.
YEAH ...
LET'S GET SOME LUNCH!
ARE YOU HUNGRY?



WE'LL HEAD THAT WAY.
THEN —



WEL-COME, HOW MANY?

TWO.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

コロコロ

ガタ KLATT

OOF

スザ! SZZZT

ドクン DOKUN

TO BE MEETING YOU AGAIN LIKE THIS.

IT'S KINDA WEIRD

HEH...

YEAH, IT IS.

HMM, WHAT SHOULD I GET ...

WELL, FIRST LET'S EAT !

I'M STAR-VING!

もぐ CHEW

もぐ CHEW

TASTY YYY!

mm!

IT'S BEEN SUCH A WHILE.

TRY TO LOOK HAPPIER !

WHAT'S WRONG, KASUGA ?

SAEKI.

BEEN SINCE THEN?

HOW HAVE YOU

...I DON'T REMEMBER VERY WELL ANYMORE.

SINCE THEN IT'S JUST BEEN UTSUNOMIYA.

I STARTED AT MY CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL ...

I SPENT ABOUT A MONTH IN A DETENTION CENTER, I GUESS?

THEN CHANGED SCHOOLS RIGHT AFTER.

IN HIGH SCHOOL I GOT A BOY-FRIEND, TOO.

AND I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE FUN.

STILL, I COULD MAKE FRIENDS OKAY

BUT REALLY I DON'T RECALL MUCH ABOUT WHEN I TRANS-FERRED.

I GUESS I'M OKAY HAPPY ?

SO—

I SEE ...

I...

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THEN?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

NOTHING SPECIAL ...

I'VE BEEN IN THIS TOWN SINCE,

RIGHT AFTER THAT, TO OMIYA.

MOVED TOO,

I DUNNO ...

AND SO?

ARE YOU HAPPY, KASUGA?

WHAT ABOUT NAKAMURA ?

I DON'T KNOW.

DO AFTER ALL THAT?

HOW DID YOU TWO

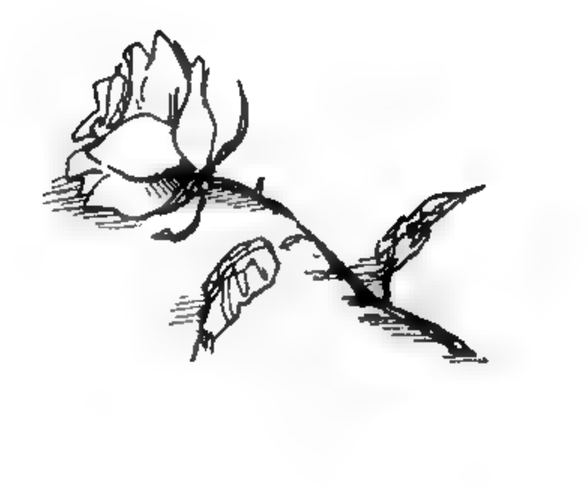
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE IS ...

I'VE YET TO SEE HER SINCE THAT DAY ...

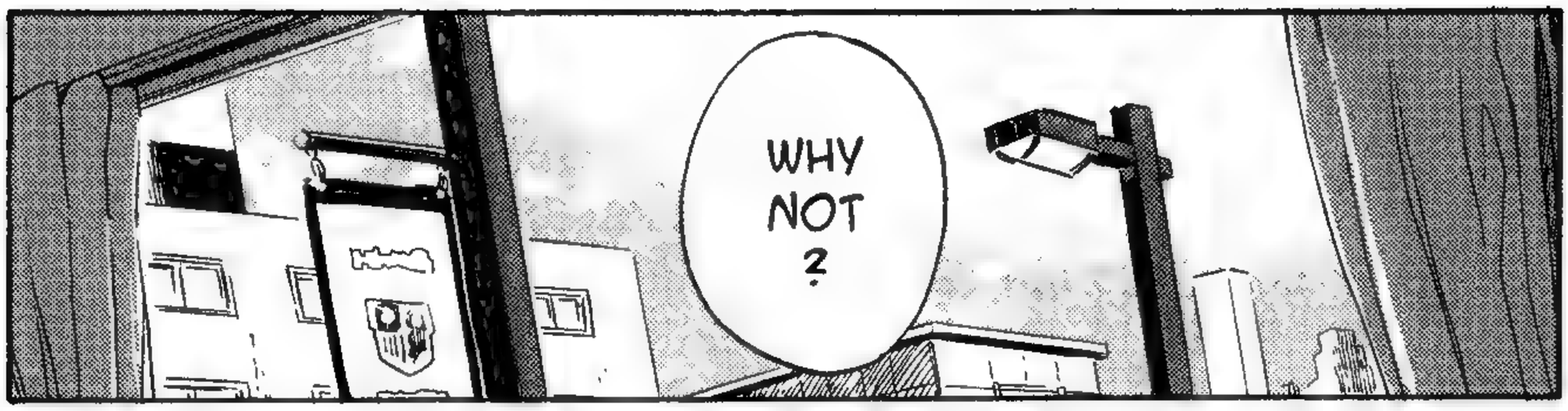
HUH ?

カチ TIK

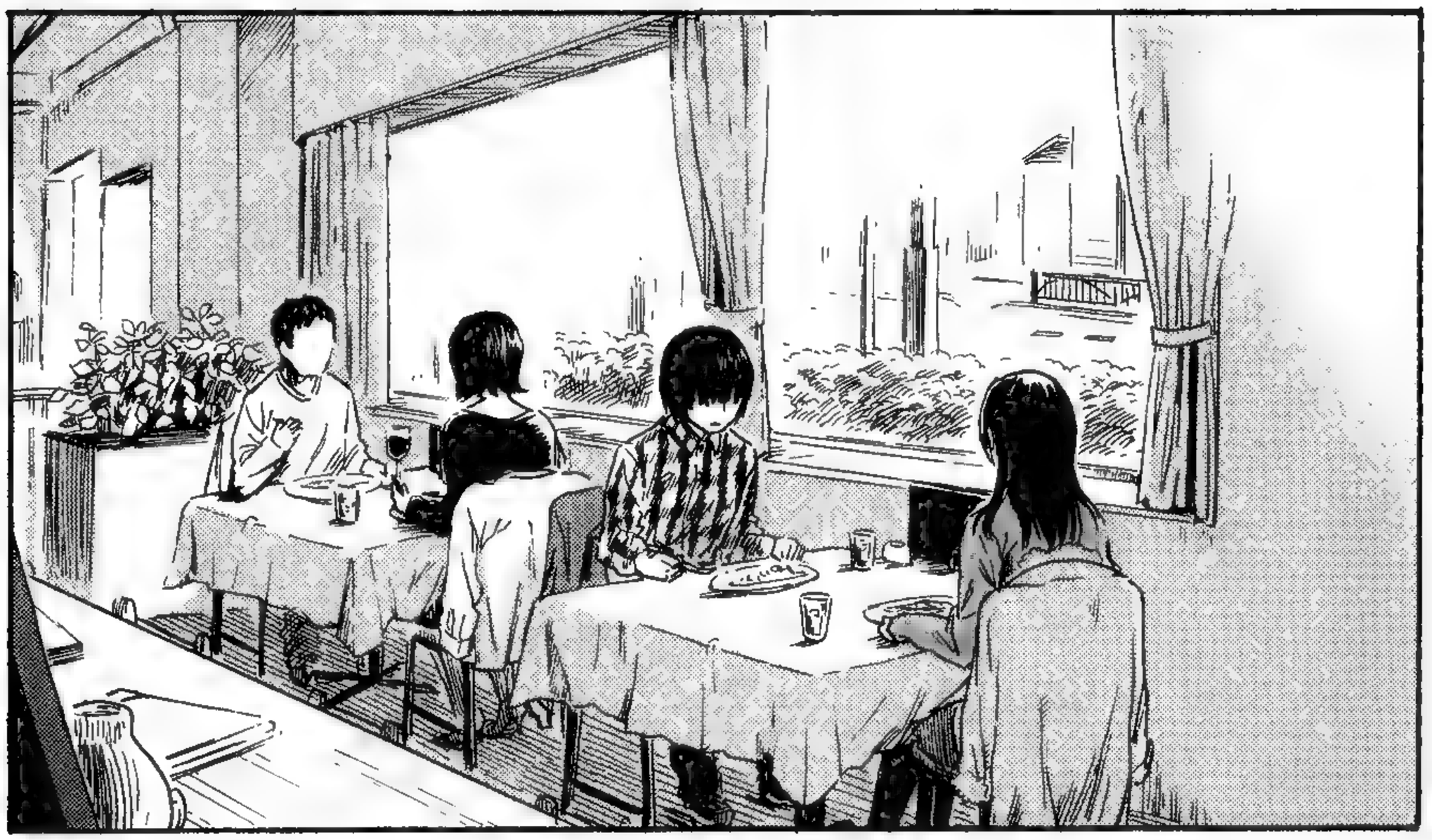
WHY NOT ?



Chapter 42: In Short, I Was Dead


WHY NOT ?

NOT KNOW ABOUT HER?
WHY WOULD YOU



THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.

HA HA HA

I WAS ...

I SAW IT ON TV.

WATCHING THE FESTIVAL.

WHY, I WONDER?

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I STARTED CRYING.

I...

WELL ...

MEAN TO DIE TOGETHER ?

HEY. DIDN'T YOU TWO

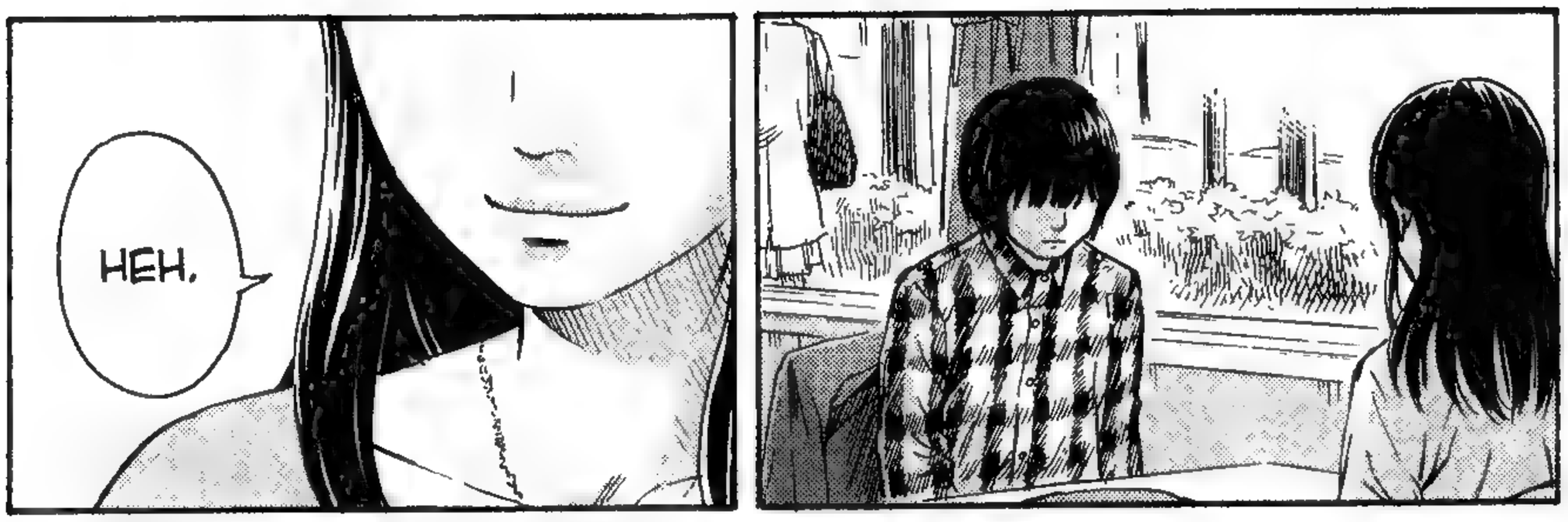
AM I WRONG ?

BUT TO ME, IT LOOKED LIKE NAKAMURA PUSHED YOU AWAY.

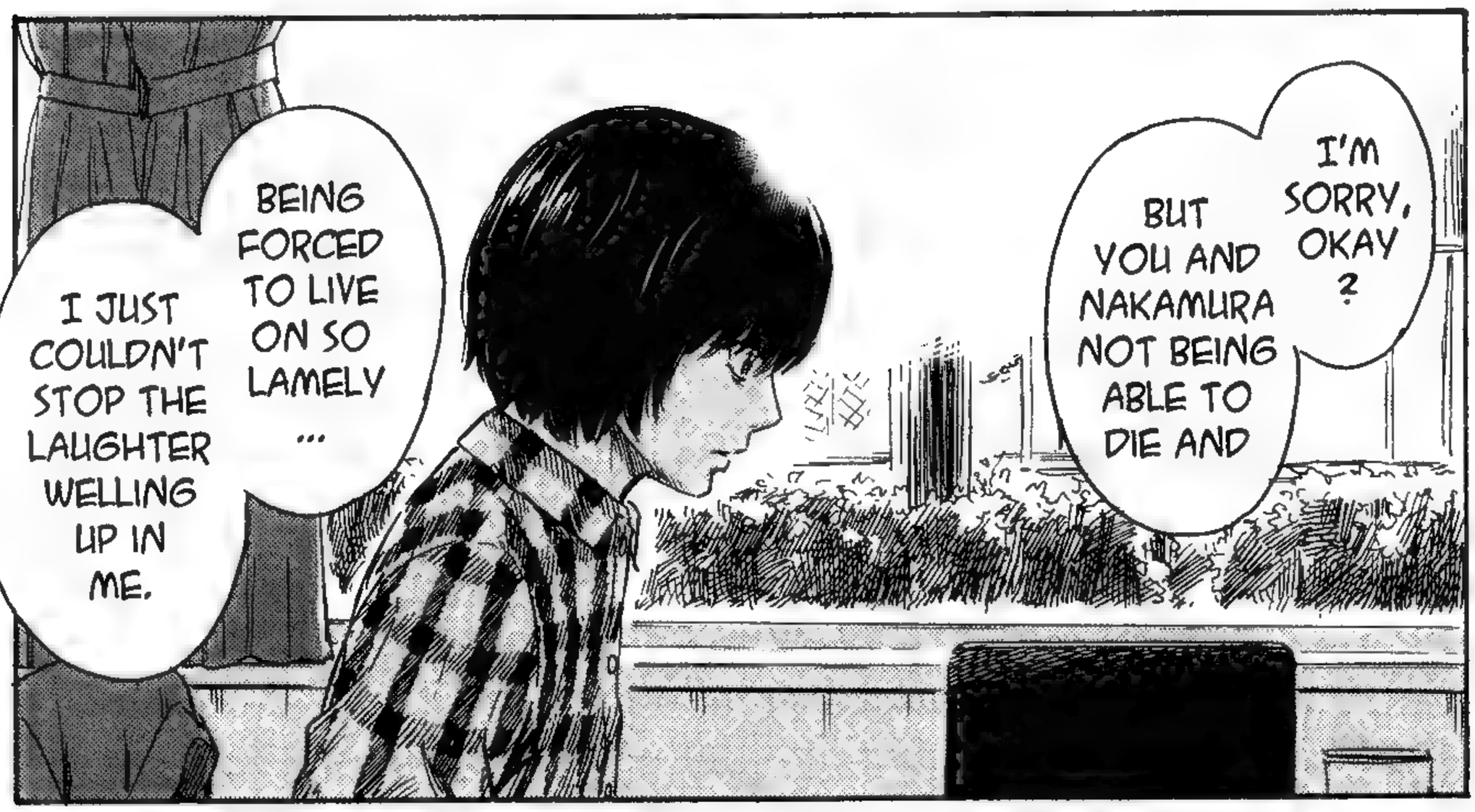
WHY DID NAKAMURA PUSH YOU AWAY, KASUGA ?

SO AT THAT MOMENT

YOU DON'T KNOW ?


HEH.

WHAT I THOUGHT WAS—
"SERVES THEM RIGHT."
YOU SEE, AT THE TIME,


I JUST COULDN'T STOP THE LAUGHTER WELLING UP IN ME.
BEING FORCED TO LIVE ON SO LAMELY ...
BUT YOU AND NAKAMURA NOT BEING ABLE TO DIE AND
I'M SORRY, OKAY?

I'D HAVE BEEN SO BITTER I'D'VE NOT KNOWN WHAT TO DO.

IF YOU TWO HAD MANAGED TO DIE,

GOSH! YOU GUYS!

HA HA HA

SAEKI ...

YOU ONCE TOLD ME

THIS WORLD IS GRAY NO MATTER HOW FAR WE GO.

IT'S JUST... GRAY.

NO NOTH-ING.

NO MOUN-TAINS,

YOU WERE RIGHT.

THIS PLACE ISN'T THAT TOWN.

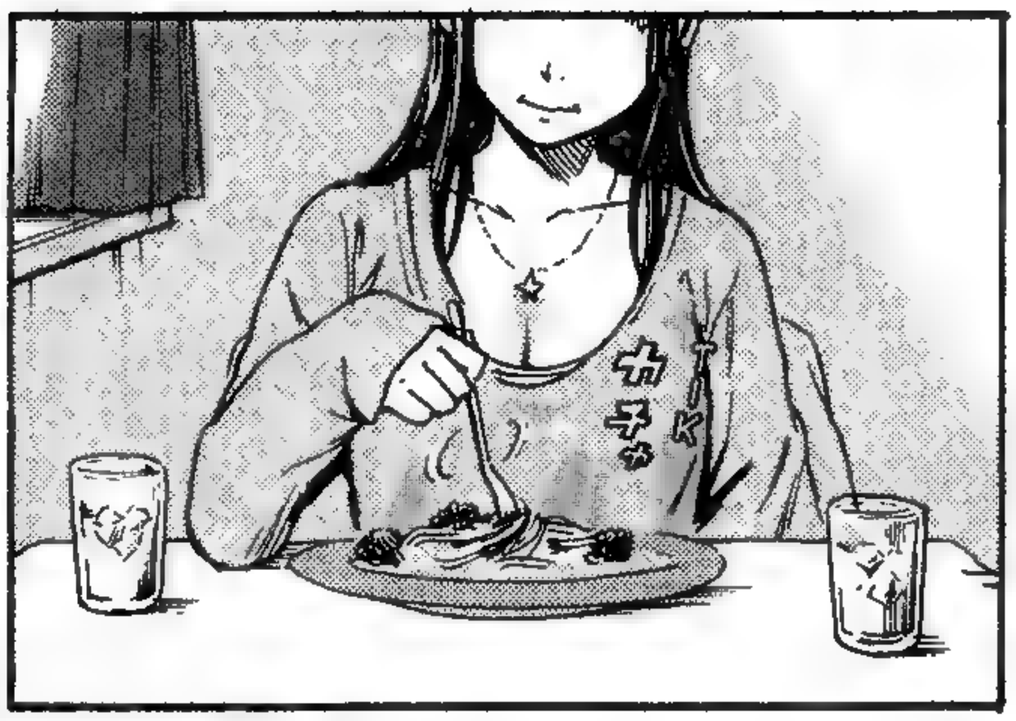
EVEN THEN I—

DON'T FEEL LIKE I WANT TO DIE NOW.

BUT

BUT I—

TIK
TIK


TIK

DO YOU LIKE HER?
TOKIWA, WAS IT?

SHE REMINDS YOU OF HER—
OF NAKA-MURA— DOESN'T SHE?
IS SHE STANDING IN FOR NAKAMURA?

THAT'S NOT IT.

WHAT IS IT, THEN?

I...

HER NOVEL.

THERE'S A NOVEL I WANT TO READ.

SHE'S TRYING TO WRITE A NOVEL.

IT'S GOT A GREAT PLOT.

SO I...

NOVEL ?

THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING.

FOR ME, IT'S THE FIRST THING I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND... SINCE THEN...

LIAR.

ARE YOU GONNA

MAKE HER UNHAPPY TOO?

YOU ARE NAS-TY.

YOU'RE GONNA THROW HER AWAY WHEN IT GETS TO BE TOO MUCH.

YOU'RE GONNA USE HER AS A TOOL IN NAKAMURA'S PLACE TO CONSOLE YOURSELF.

WHAM

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

TWITCH

'CAUSE SHE'S NOT NAKA-MURA.

IT WILL BE.

ABOUT THE REAL NAKAMURA ?

DON'T YOU CARE ANYMORE ?

SO YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY,

FROM THAT DAY.

FROM THAT TOWN.

FROM ME,

EVEN FROM NAKAMURA.

YOU'LL JUST KEEP RUNNING AWAY.

YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

JUST HOW IT IS?

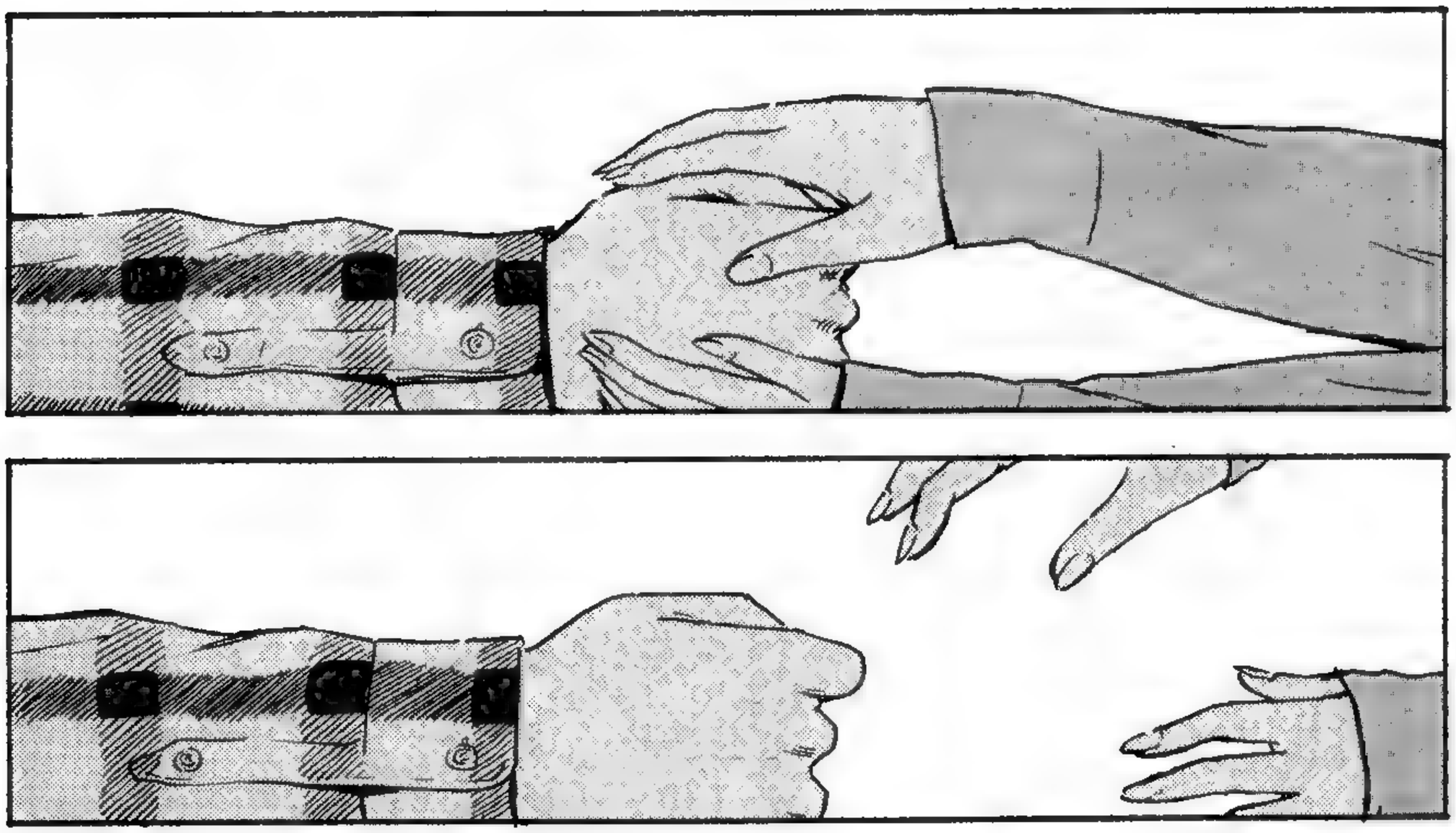
RIGHT, ISN'T THAT

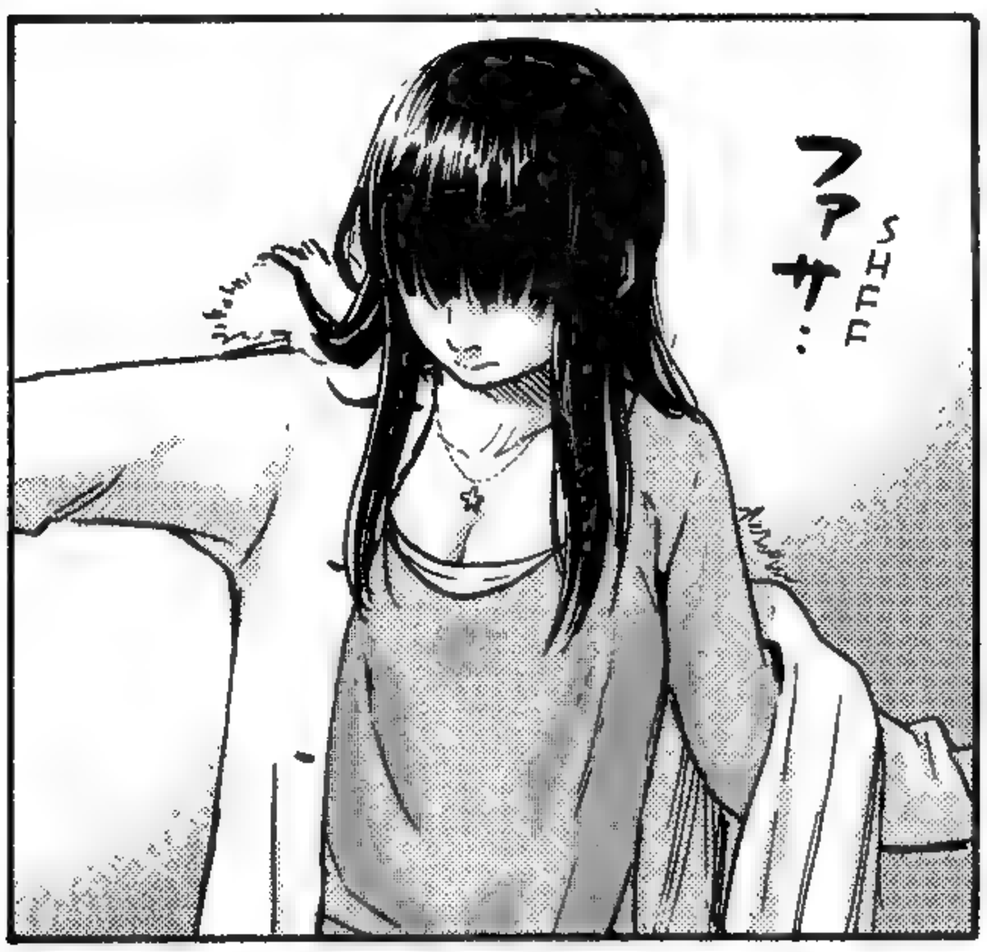
...BUT

I KNEW IT. I DID.

I'M STILL FEELING LET DOWN.

BUT




ファサ!
SHEE

ガタ!
KLATT

I'M GOING NOW.
THANKS FOR TODAY.

カラン
KLINK
カラン
KLANK
THAT COMES TO 1,460 YEN.
UM, SAME BILL IS FINE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

BYE BYE

KA-SU-GA

I'm going solo.

NHCK ...

GH...

NGH
...

MBF

MF

FFF

HF

NM

KH...

URG
...

HF
BUH

Seeing his expression, Fumiya w

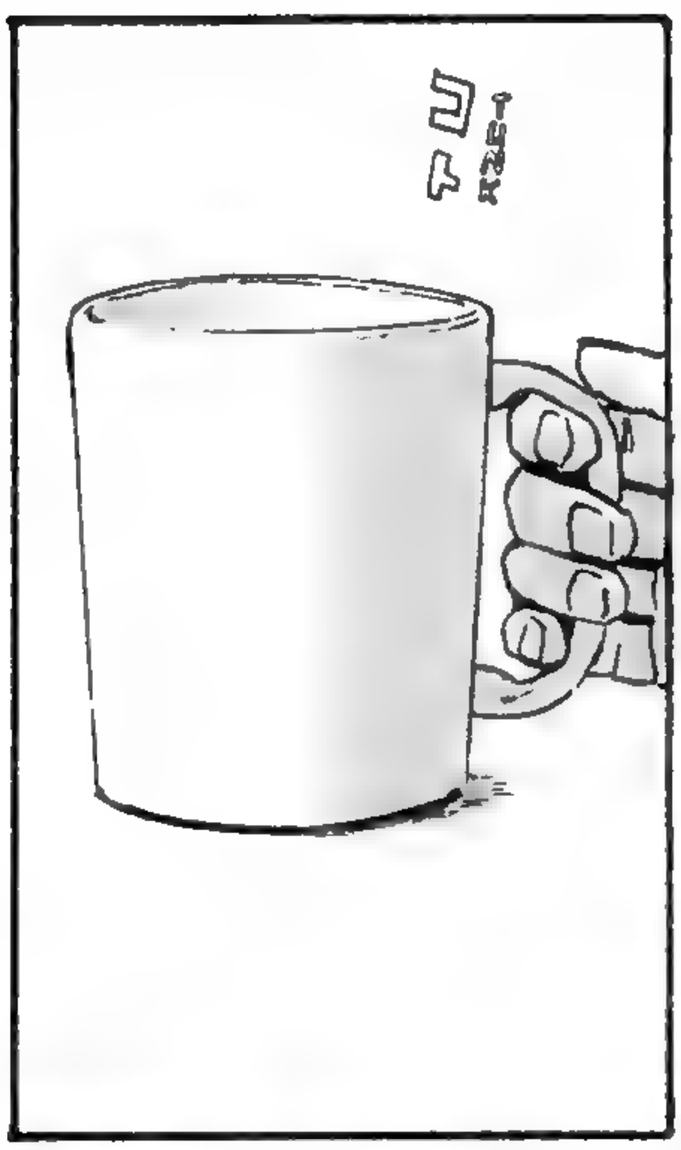
It was as though any will to live

e strange expression.

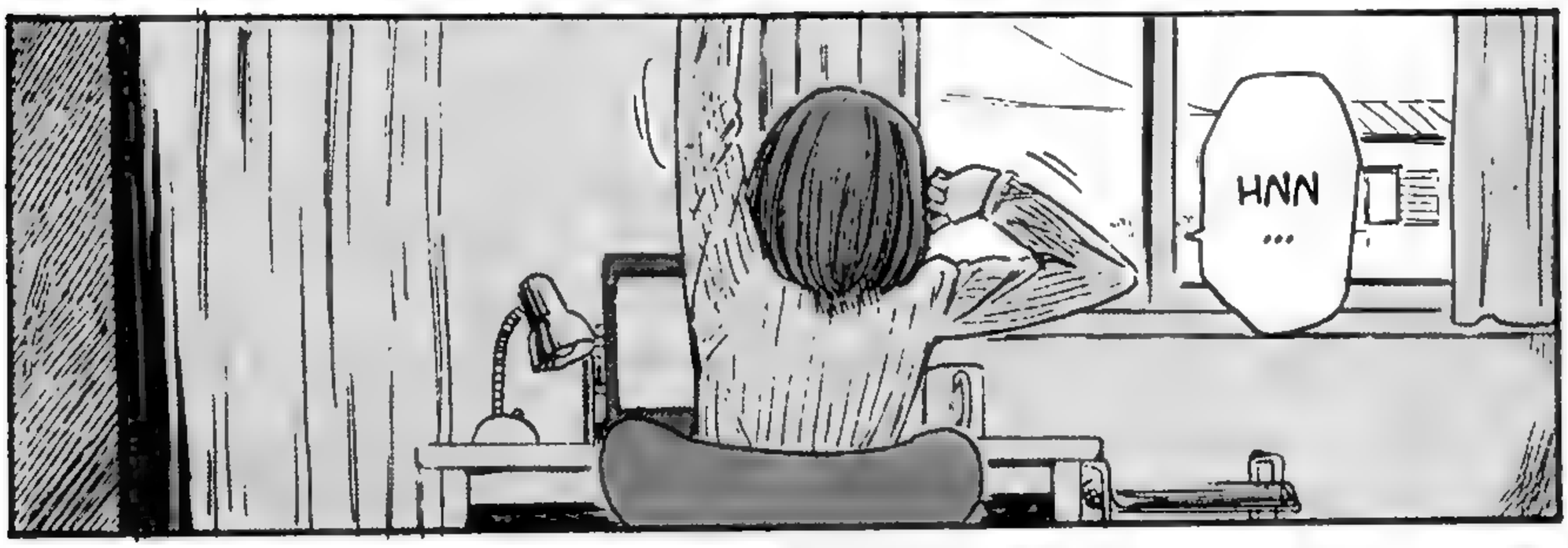
“A ghost.”

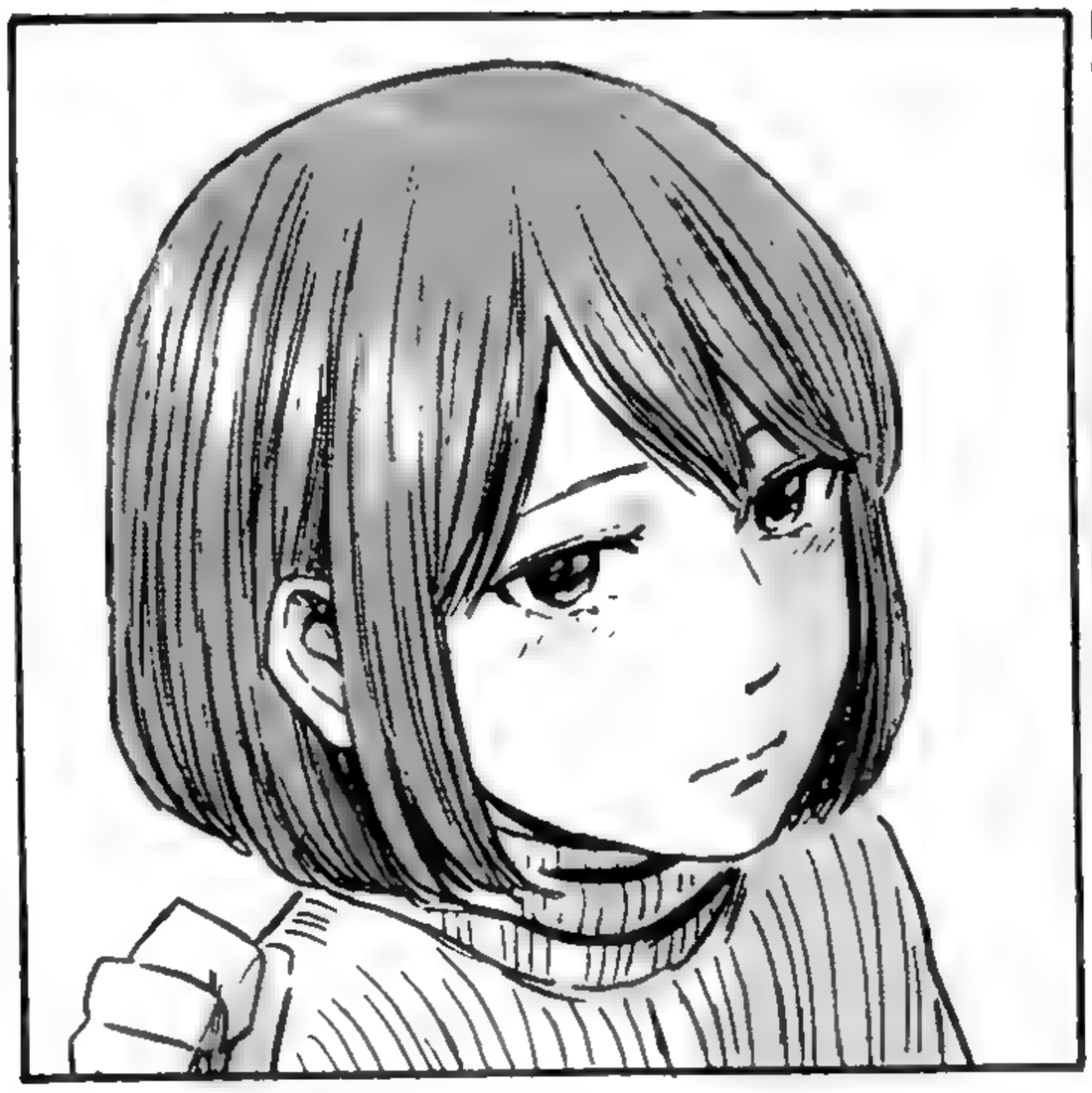
“Huh?”

Fumiya slowly turned around, a


アツ
ATSU-!

SIP ズ…


HNN
…



PRRRT

PRRRT

PRRRT

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PRRRT

PRRRT

CALLING

Tokiwa
090-××××-××××

VOLUME 3

ANSWER

SEND

PRRRT

PRRRT

PRRRT

PRRRT

PRRRT

TOSS

THE NUMBER YOU ARE TRYING TO CALL IS NOT CURRENTLY ...

HMM ...

DAD-ING

DADING

DADING♪

SORRY, I WAS JUST WORRYING ABOUT HOW THIS SCENE SHOULD GO...

t⊙ BIP ∞/

HELLO ?!

AYA ?

I'M SORRY.

KOJI
...

ガ
TUNK

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT, AYA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HEY

COULD WE MEET RIGHT NOW?

Continued in volume 9

CHONK

KATUNK

KATUNK

TOK

TOK

TOK

TOK

KOIZUMI.

I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU, NANAKO.

I FIGURED YOU'D BE GETTING BACK SOON, SO I WAITED UP.

THANKS.

YEAH!

THAT PREP COURSE SEEM ANY GOOD?

SO, HOW WAS IT?

The Flowers of Evil

EDITED BY TYPE IT UP
SCANNED BY KICKTHEKITTY